

# Older adults household and living arrangements' trends over recent decades in Estonia and Belgium

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**Äksi, EDK suveseminar**

# Research question

Are the share and trends in type of living arrangements of population aged 50+ similar in Estonia and Belgium?

# Household versus living arrangements

- Household and living arrangements are two related concepts largely used in demography
- HOUSEHOLD is a group of persons with or without family links living together in the same usual place of residence and sharing their living conditions
- LIVING ARRANGEMENTS is an individual characteristic describing with whom a person lives in the same usual place of residence. LA data are based on household information but is not the same.

In both cases types could be identified differently (based on ref person or on some specific characteristics or links). Household type is applied the same for all household members.

# Household in BELGIUM

- The Continuous Population System (Registre National des Personnes Physiques) keeps the concept of household
- Head of household is replaced by the person of reference who is in touch with the administration and the links are available only with that person.
- Most links between household members can be found based on filiation information.

# Household in ESTONIA

- Household data on the whole population of Estonia has been collected with censuses.
- Data on household was collected through door-to-door census (except 2011) and it describes the composition of the household living in a given address, identifying the head of household and the relationship of each person with the latter (except 2011).

# Private versus collective households

Beside the identification of private households, there exists in both countries some large group of persons living together for specific reason like nursing homes, psychiatric institutions, prison...

These households are considered separately as collective household and do have neither a person of reference nor an indication of relationship between members.

# Typology

## HOUSEHOLDS

- One person household (male or female)
- Couple without children (two partners married or not)
- Couple with child(ren)
- Couple with others including children but not only
- Single mother or father with child(ren)
- All other private households
- Institutional households

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Living alone (male or female)
- Living with partner only (married or not married)
- Living with partner and chil(dren)
- Living with partner and other person(s) including child(ren)
- Living with chil(ren) only
- All other private living arrangements
- Living in institution

# Data reliability

The identification of a household from the register is dependent on

(i) the existence (of a cadaster with) addresses of dwellings (to find people having common residence),

(ii) the accuracy of the usual place of residence of each member and

(iii) the obligation to declare all changes of residence including the changes modifying the internal structure of the household.

## In BELGIUM

Field investigations indicate that the composition of household is reliable in 95% whereas the main discrepancies occur for young people leaving the family nest and the oldest olds entering a nursing home. In both cases the new situation is considered as temporary and is not declared. Some false declaration or absence of declaration might be linked to possible financial advantages.

## In ESTONIA

Household is defined for each census (and for surveys) but seems compatible but problems when comparing numbers.



## All households (absolute figures)

	ESTONIA **				BELGIUM ***			
	1979	1989	2000	2011	1981	1991	2001	2011
alone male	109.046	109.730	72.335	94.385	303.818	466.169	607.999	766.331
alone female	136.616	123.944	123.115	145.202	533.446	657.502	745.014	841.410
couple without children	92.173	97.621	98.809	112.378	845.273	866.237	913.661	995.558
couple with children only	180.719	210.982	175.294	142.273	1.411.287	1.354.126	1.212.930	1.099.224
single mother with children (only)	67.232	87.858	79.707	70.764	148.016	245.299	309.541	317.718
other HH*	91.488	29.940	33.175	34.829	366.355	363.792	488.525	707.590
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>677.274</b>	<b>660.074</b>	<b>582.435</b>	<b>599.831</b>	<b>3.608.195</b>	<b>3.953.125</b>	<b>4.277.670</b>	<b>4.727.831</b>
* including single father with child(ren)								
** Estonian data from individual records of census files								
*** Belgian data from population register								

## All households, share (%)

	ESTONIA					BELGIUM			
	1979	1989	2000	2011		1981	1991	2000	2011
alone male	16,1	16,6	12,4	15,7		8,4	11,8	14,2	16,2
alone female	20,2	18,8	21,1	24,2		14,8	16,6	17,4	17,8
couple without children	13,6	14,8	17,0	18,7		23,4	21,9	21,4	21,1
couple with children only	26,7	32,0	30,1	23,7		39,1	34,3	28,4	23,3
single mother with children (only)	9,9	13,3	13,7	11,8		4,1	6,2	7,2	6,7
other HH*	13,5	4,5	5,7	5,8		10,2	9,2	11,4	15,0
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100	100	100		100	100	100	100

## **Living arrangements of the 50+**

The living arrangements of people aged 50 years and above is an important concern for policy implications.

Putting in evidence the trends on a comparative way between Belgium and Estonia might help for future policy actions needed.

## Comparative analysis of Living Arrangements of the 50+

- Trends in absolute figures, changes between successive censuses and type of trends
- Trends in relative figures, changes between successive censuses of the share by type of LA
- Comparing the share by type of LA between the two countries at different censuses
- Comparing the trends in the share by type of LA between the two countries

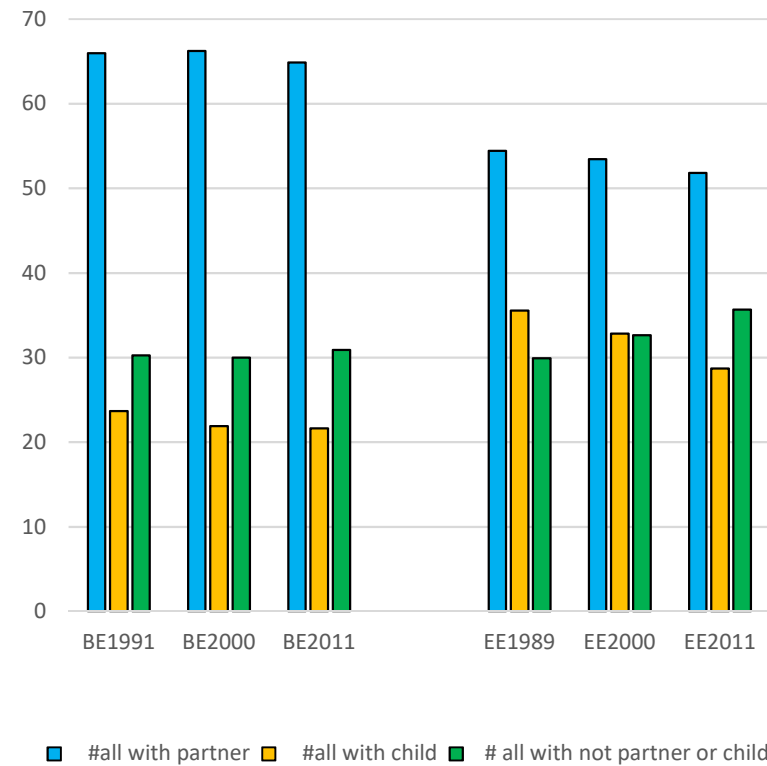
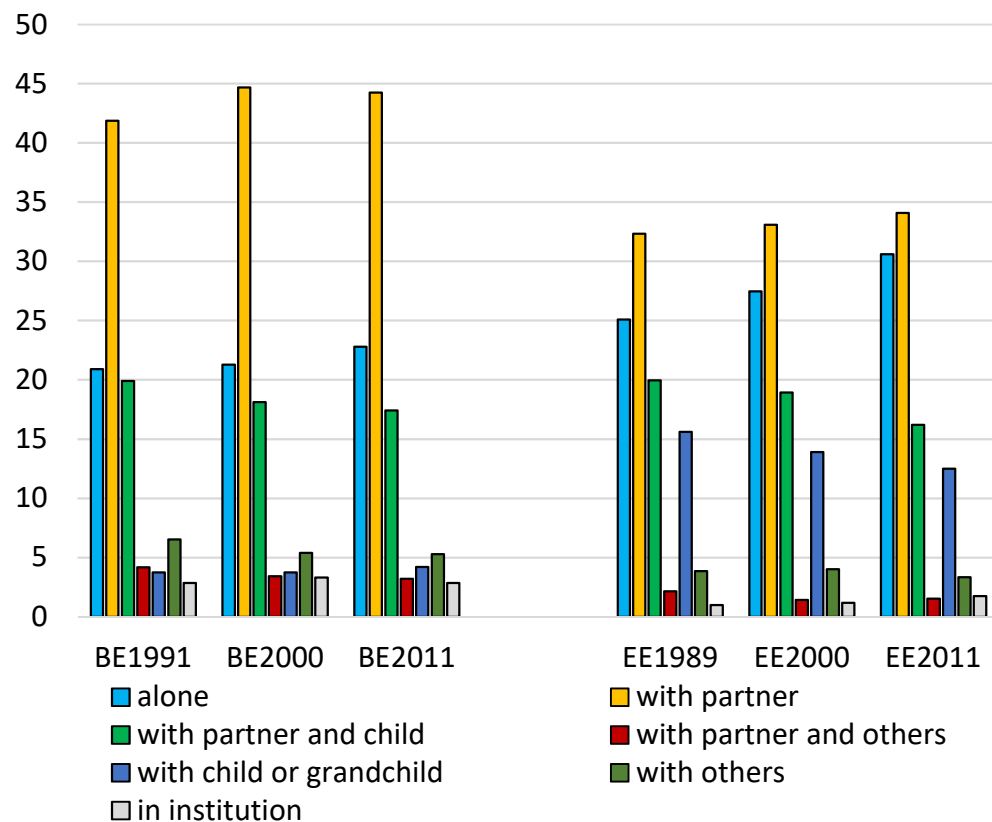
## Private living arrangements of people 50+ (NB! Individuals)

	ESTONIA			BELGIUM		
	1989	2000	2011	1991	2001	2011
living alone (male)	28.926	30.567	39.694	190.875	233.112	324.626
living alone (female)	85.586	91.969	109.165	477.444	511.423	590.296
living with partner without children	147.375	147.621	165.814	1.337.841	1.555.884	1.776.443
living with partner with children only	90.942	84.419	78.855	639.435	628.623	707.870
living with partner with others	9.740	6.389	7.442	133.712	117.479	128.944
living with children (without partner)	71.141	62.098	60.824	107.823	116.382	146.073
living in other private LA	17.561	17.892	16.285	217.408	191.976	226.269
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>451.271</b>	<b>440.955</b>	<b>478.079</b>	<b>3.104.538</b>	<b>3.354.879</b>	<b>3.900.521</b>

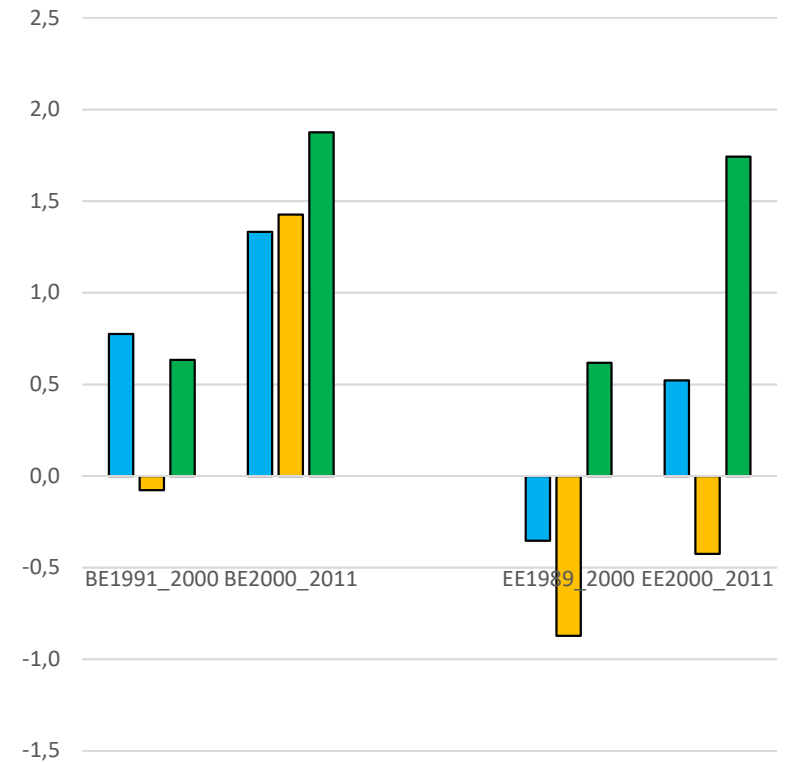
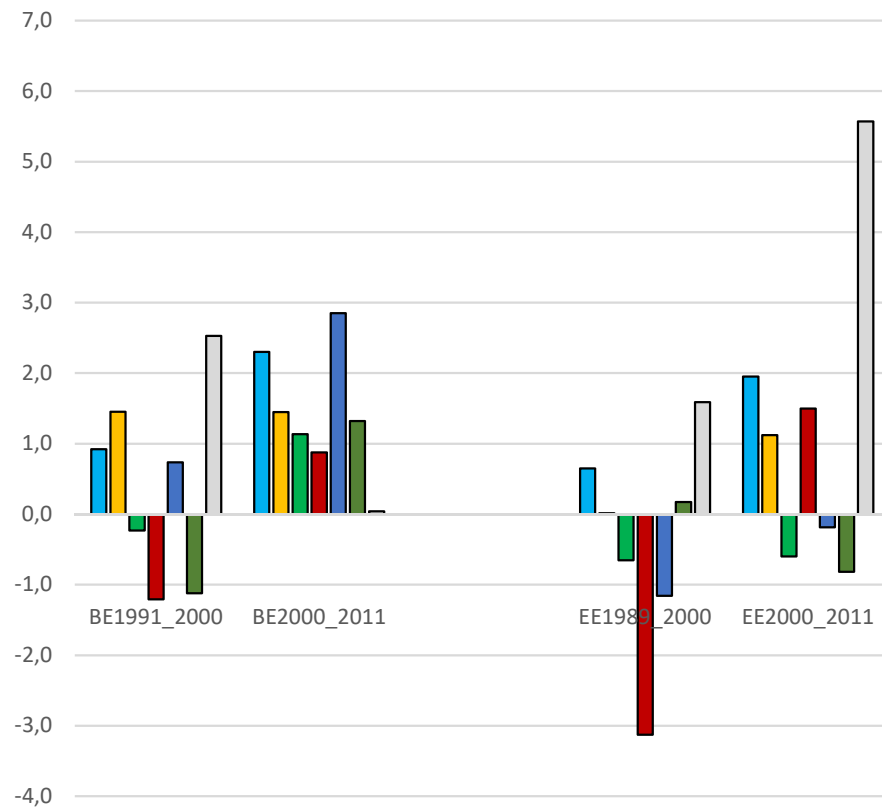
## Private living arrangements of people 50+ (%)

	ESTONIA			BELGIUM		
	1989	2000	2011	1991	2001	2011
living alone (male)	6,4	6,9	8,3	6,1	6,8	8,3
living alone (female)	19,0	20,6	22,8	15,4	15,2	15,1
living with partner without children	32,7	33,5	34,7	43,1	46,2	45,5
living with partner with children only	20,2	19,1	16,5	20,5	18,8	17,9
living with partner with others	2,2	1,4	1,6	4,3	3,5	3,3
living with children (without partner)	15,8	14,1	12,7	3,9	3,9	4,3
living in other private LA	3,9	4,1	3,4	6,7	5,6	5,4
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100

# Share of LA in population 50+



# Change of the number compared with the previous census (annual average)

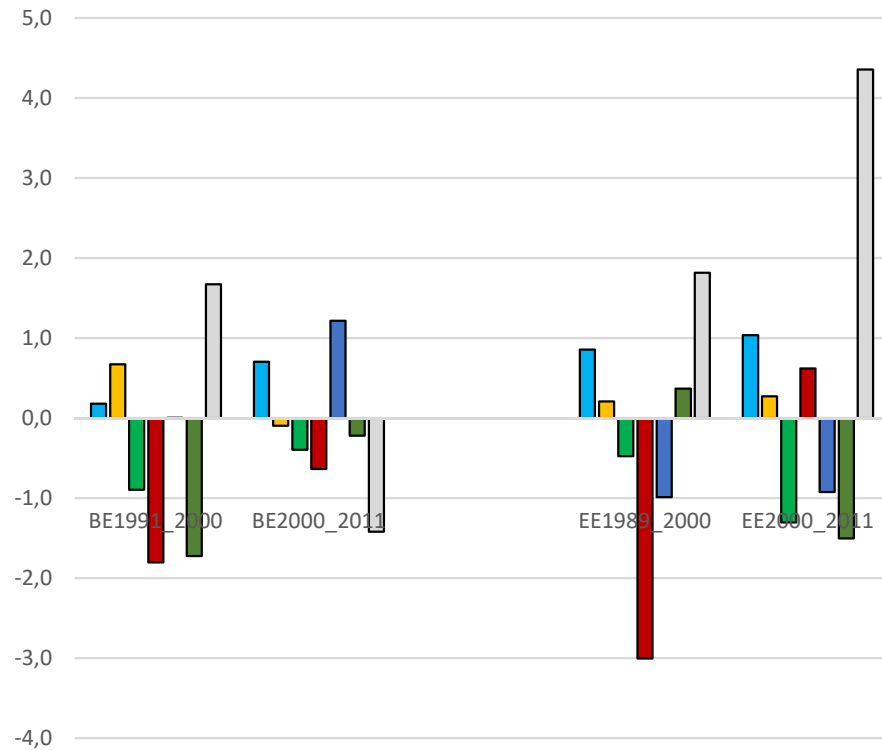


- alone
- with partner
- with partner and child
- with partner and others
- with child
- with others
- in institution

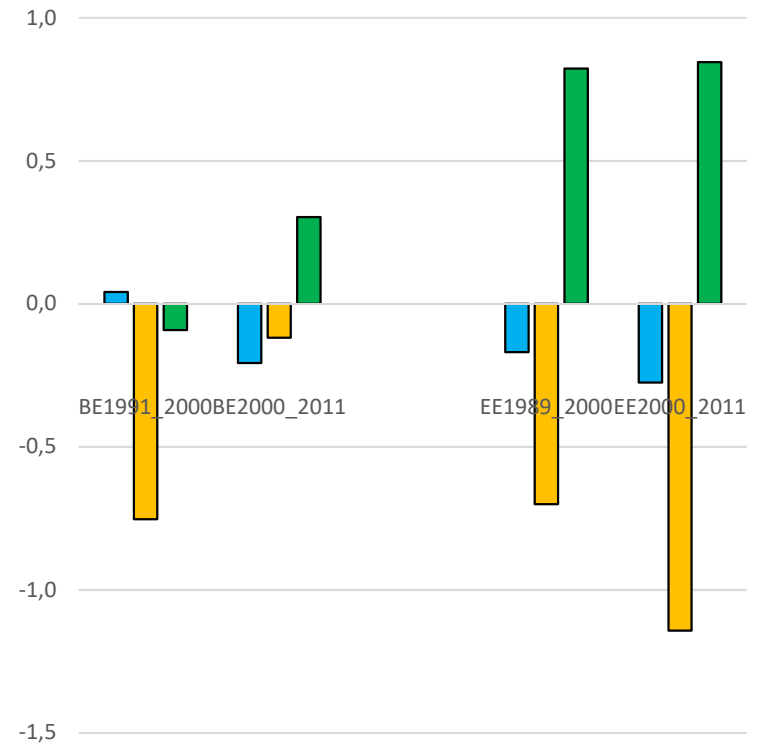
- #all with partner
- #all with child
- #all with not partner or child



# Change of the share compared with the previous census (annual average)

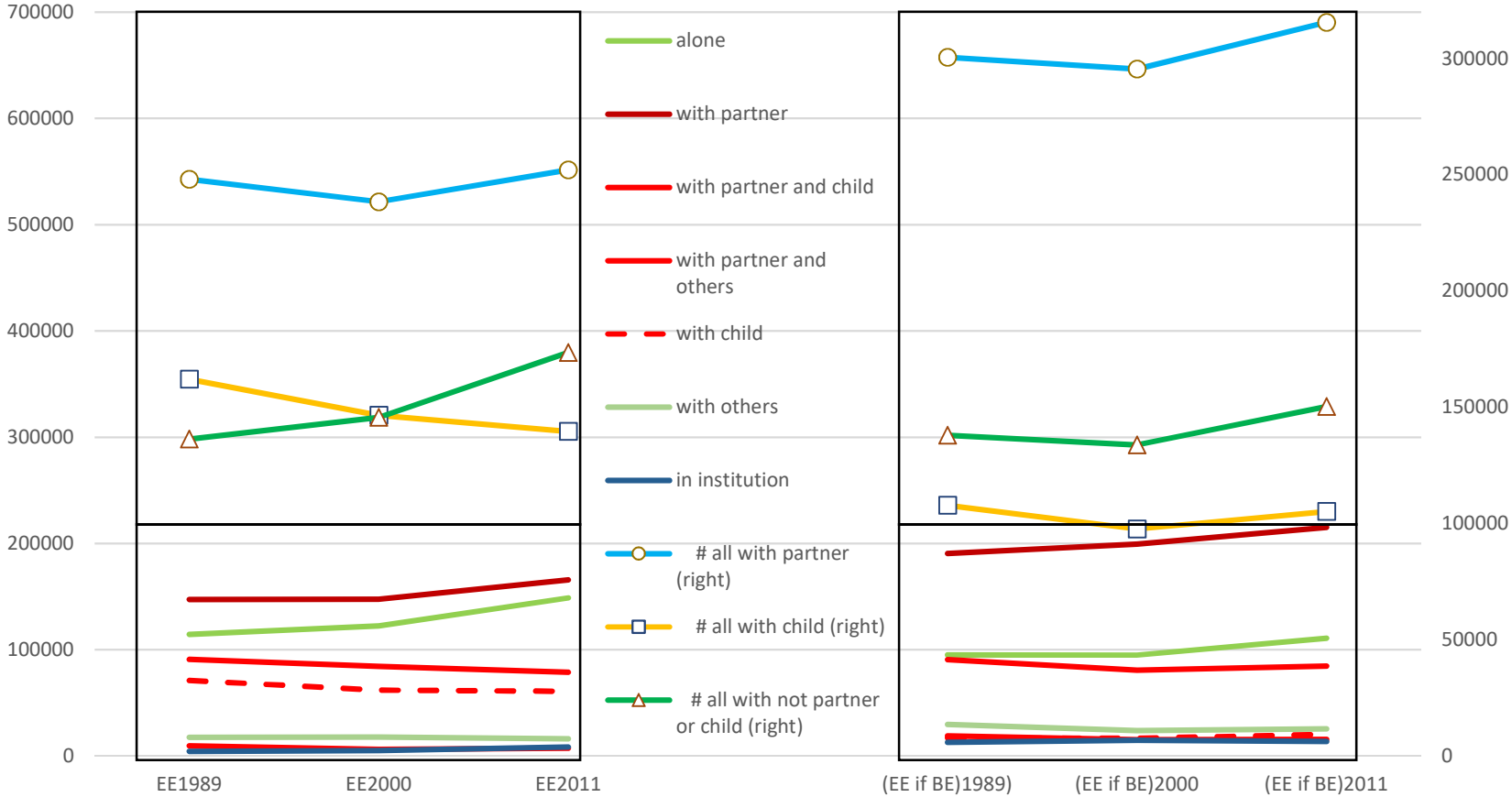


- alone
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- #all with partner
- #all with child
- # all with not partner or child

# Living arrangements of 50+ in Estonia and if Estonians were like Belgians



Number of people by LA in Estonia as enumerated (EE) and if the share by LA was as in Belgium (EE if BE)

# Discussion on LA trends

There are some similarities and some differences.

Common is that

living alone and living with partner without children is increasing.

living with children and living with others except partner is decreasing.

Different is

distribution by LAs

the range of change in both absolute numbers and proportions of LAs

also in some subgroups, eg living with child but not partner.

Is it possible/meaningful to compare trends in households?

## Further work

More investigations should be devoted to the **reliability** of data and the possibility to compare these strictly.

Differences **by gender and age groups** should be analysed to identify the key problems for policy implication to ensure the well-being of the oldest olds in both countries.

Thanks for your attention  
Comments and suggestions are warmly  
welcome