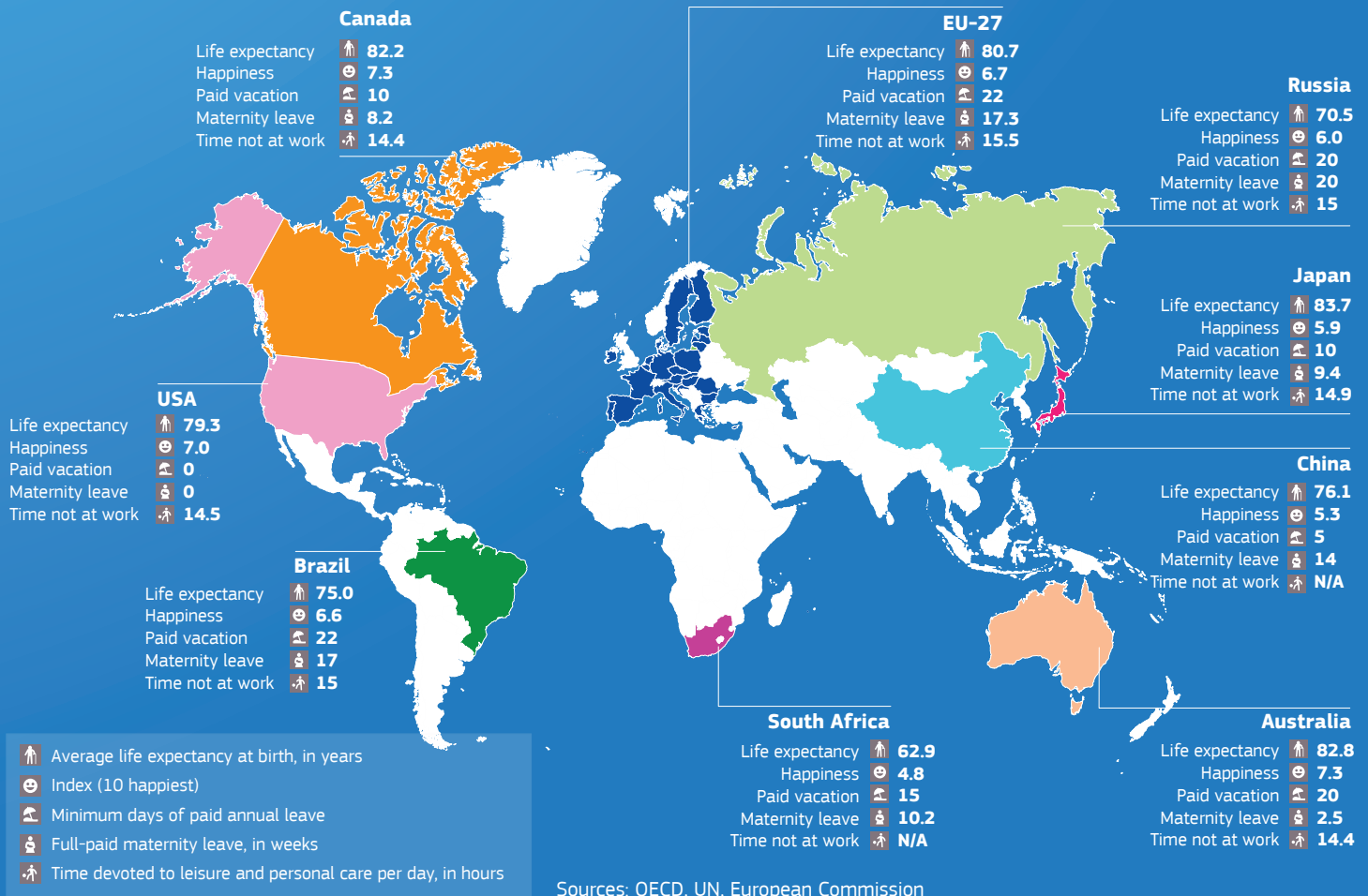


# INEQUALITY FACT SHEET

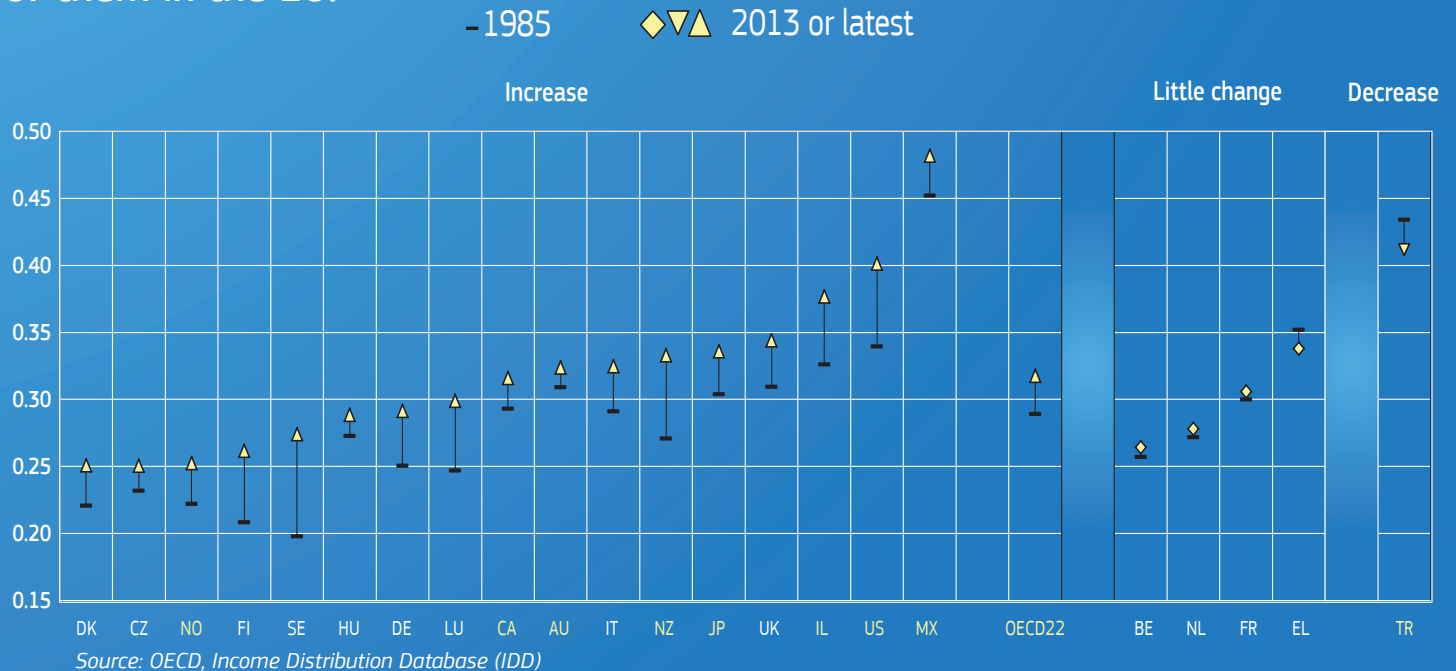
European societies enjoy the highest levels of social protection in the world and rank highly in terms of wellbeing, human development and quality of life.



Among the 20 most equal high-income countries, 17 of them are in the EU.

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Norway         | 11. Austria     |
| 2. Iceland        | 12. Hungary     |
| 3. Slovenia       | 13. Malta       |
| 4. Czech Republic | 14. Luxembourg  |
| 5. Sweden         | 15. Switzerland |
| 6. Slovakia       | 16. Germany     |
| 7. Finland        | 17. France      |
| 8. Belgium        | 18. Ireland     |
| 9. Netherland     | 19. Croatia     |
| 10. Denmark       | 20. Poland      |

However, while income inequality is lower than in other parts of the world, in the past 30 years it has increased significantly in most OECD countries, many of them in the EU.



On average, in the EU the highest earning 20 % families earn five times more than the poorest 20 %.

**342** The number of billionaires in the EU. Source: Oxfam

**9.5%** The proportion of working people that are considered "working poor". Source: Eurostat

**23.7%** The proportion of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Source: Eurostat

## Europeans are concerned about the social situation.



More than 8 in 10 Europeans consider **unemployment, social inequalities and migration** as the top 3 challenges for the Union. They expect a free market economy to go hand in hand with high levels of social protection.



More than half of Europeans consider that not everyone has a chance to succeed and that life will be more difficult for the next generation.

Source: European Commission and Eurobarometer, 2017

## GENDER INEQUALITY

In 2015, women's gross hourly earnings were on average 16.3 % below those of men. The employment rate of mothers with children under the age of 6 is 60%, whereas for fathers it is 90%. Source: European Commission and Eurostat