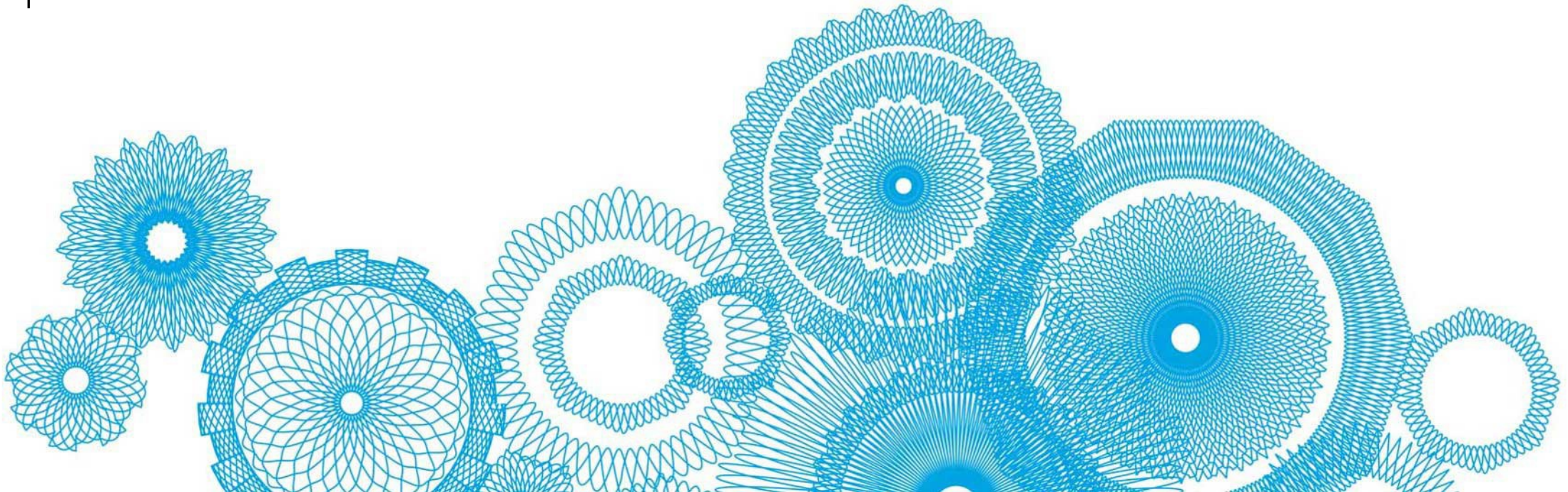




- Time for Children! Towards a Family Friendly Society
- Acting as Deputy Director General, Lene Buer Blomqvist,  
: Biga, 9th - 10th of August 2018  
: Department of Childhood, Youth and Family Affairs



# Some facts about Norway

- Population: 5, 3 million
  - 21 percent under the age of 18
  - 15 percent over the age of 67
  - Life expectancy: 81 years (men) and 84 years (women)
- 17 percent of the population are immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents



# Some facts about Norway

- Children born outside of marriage have increased the last 30 years. This is caused by cohabitating parents.
- Over 20 000 children experience each year that their married or cohabitating parents move apart.
  - 75 percent of children under 18 live together with both parents
- Norwegian families have in average 1,75 children per family
  - Most children have siblings
  - 58 percent of children with parents living together have one sibling
  - 32 percent have two siblings
  - 7 percent have three siblings



# Key elements in complex and modern societies

- Social policy
  - Labour market policy
  - Gender equality policy
  - Family policy
  - Economic policy
- 
- A welfare state with generous family policy can reduce the economic risk of having children

# Important goals in Norwegian family policy

- To give children the best start in life
- Enable both mothers and fathers to combine family and work life
- Fertility is a consequence – not a goal – of the Norwegian family policy: policies to support families has been viewed as a good in itself



# Important family benefits and regulations

- Parental benefit
- Lump sum grant
  - For women who do not qualify for parental benefit, 6 653 euro
- Child benefit
  - Universal benefit given to parents with children under the age of 18, 100 euro pr. month
- Cash for care benefit
  - For children between 13 and 23 months that do not attend kindergarten, 790 euro pr. month



# Important family benefits and regulations (cont)

- Kindergarten
  - Full access to good-quality kindergartens
    - A maximum fee per month (306 euro).
    - All children have a legal right to a place in kindergarten from 1 year of age
  - 2017: 91 per cent of children aged 1-5 years attended kindergartens.
- Paid leave when a child under 12 falls sick
  - 10 days a year for each parent
  - 15 days if they have more than two children.



# Important family benefits and regulations (cont)

- Rights at the workplace which opens for flexibility related to family responsibilities. F.ex.:
  - Unpaid leave after the paid parental leave
  - Paid leave for breastfeeding, 1 hour per day until the child is 1 year old
  - Rights to flexibility and part time work



# The Norwegian parental benefit

- Entitles parents to paid leave of absence from work. Secures income during infancy
- 49 weeks with 100 % pay
- 59 weeks with 80 % pay
- From July 1st 2018:
  - 15 weeks for the mother, pluss 3 weeks before birth
  - 15 weeks for the father
  - 16 weeks as the family find best



# Fathers quota

- Introduced in 1993: 4 weeks
- An increase in the father's quota over the years
- From July 1st 2018: 15 weeks
- 90 percent of fathers make full or partial use of their quoted time
- Self-employed fathers use their quota the least

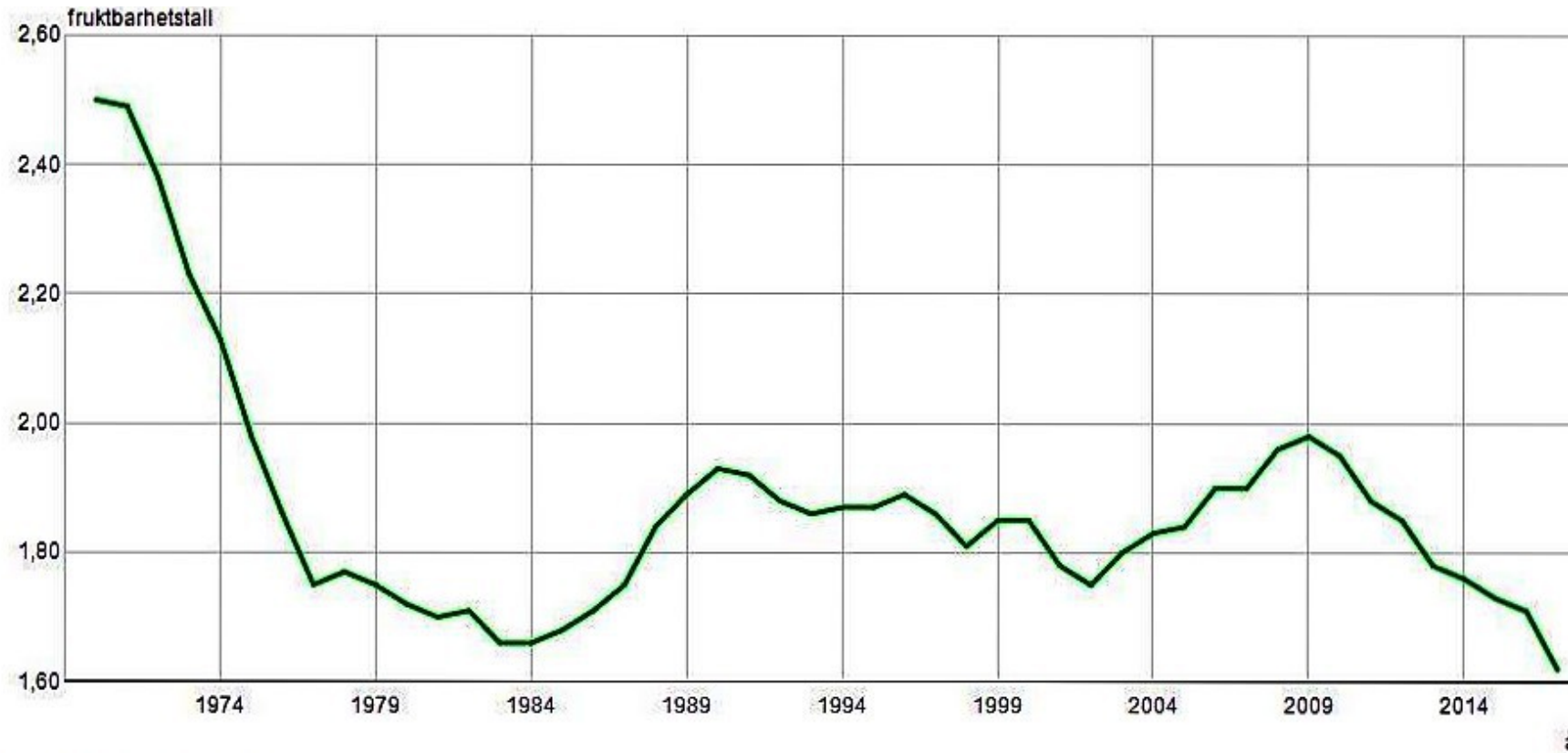


# Womens work participation

- A modern, competitive economy needs the best heads and hands, regardless of gender.
- Mothers with children below 16:
  - 81 per cent are in paid work.
  - Almost 70 per cent work full time, independent of the age of the child.
- This high level is made possible by parental leave, kindergartens and an increasing focus on fathers' participation at home.



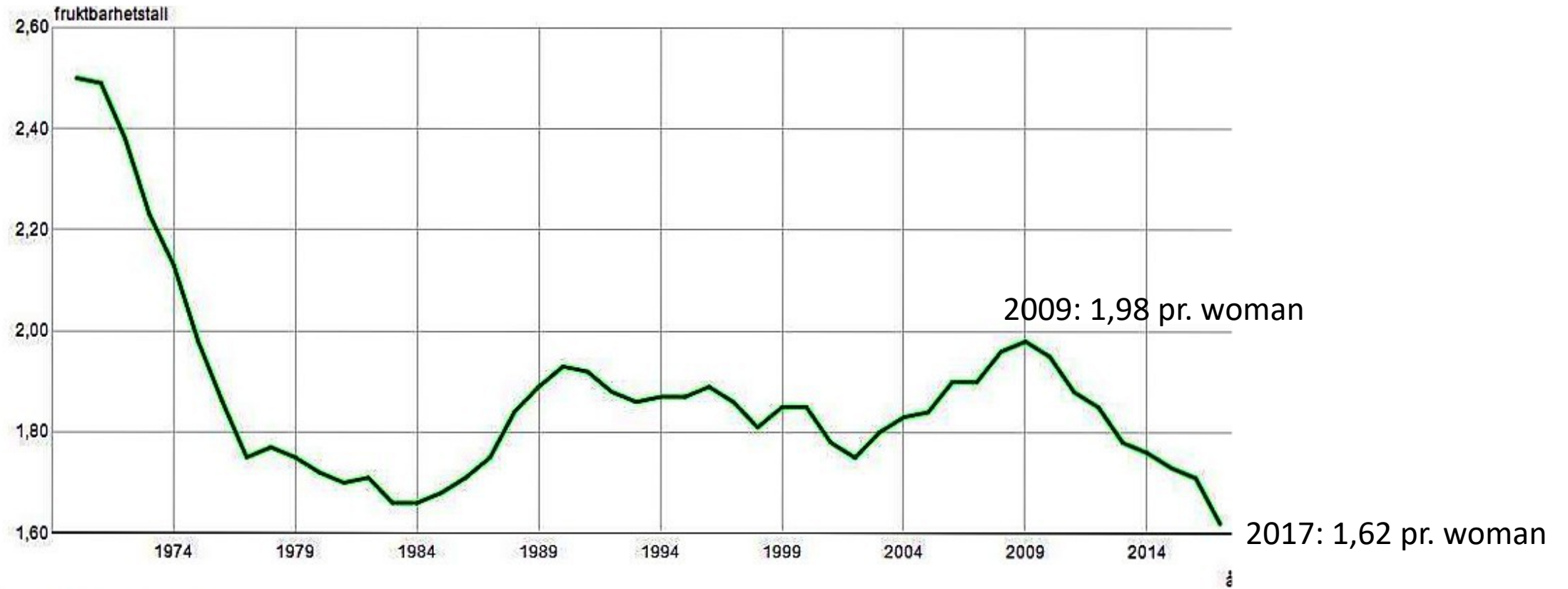
# Fertility rate women, 1970-2017



Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå



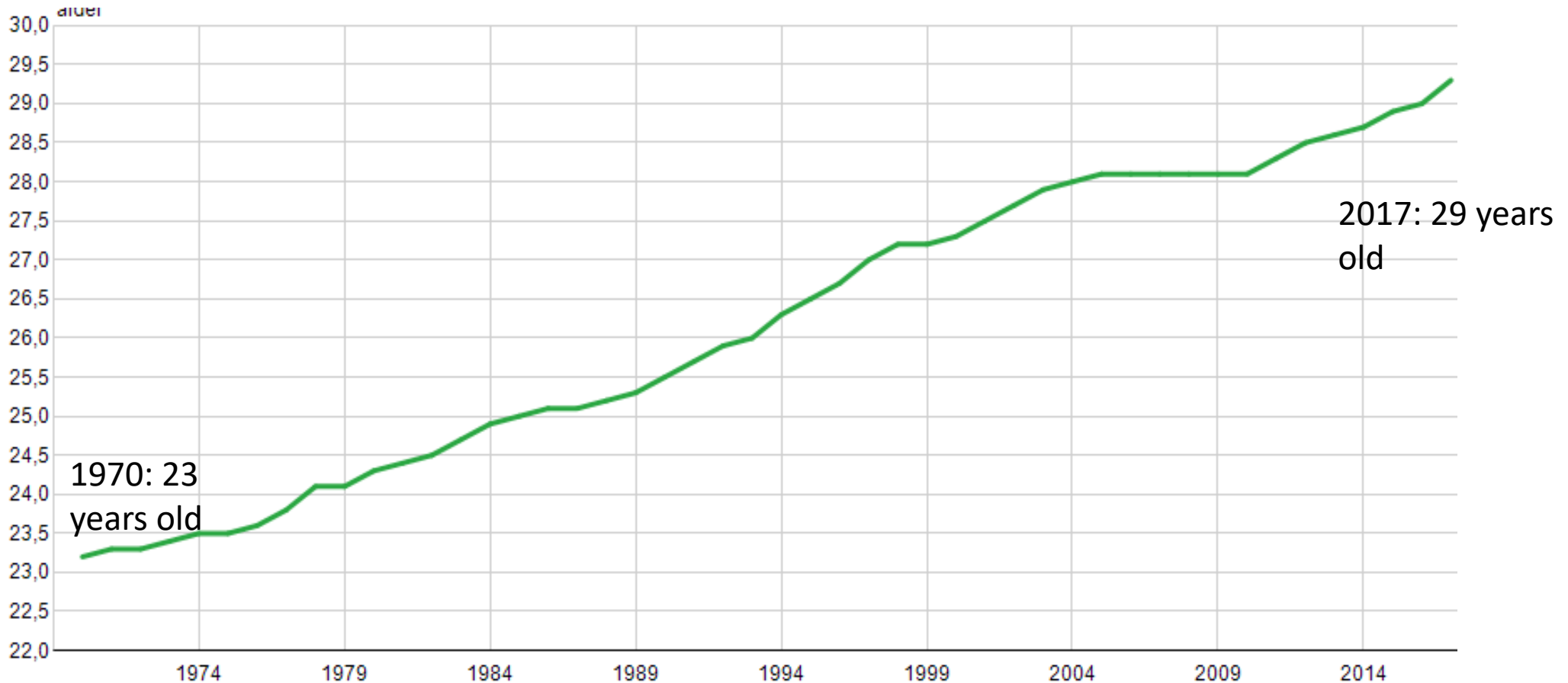
# Fertility rate women, 1970-2017



Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå



# Average age of mothers, first born child, 1970-2017



Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå



# Why is the fertility rate declining?

- Main reasons
  - The choice of having children is delayed - the average age of first time mothers is increasing
  - A decline in families with more than two children
    - Probably a long-term trend
- What are the underlying causes?
  - Fertility choices are probably connect to the general economic situation and young women's situation on the labour market



# Knowledge

- The importance of knowledge
- Which measures have positive effect?



Thank you for your  
attention!

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