

GGP AT A GLANCE

Did you know?

Gender equality varies considerably across Europe. In many countries, there is still a strong belief in traditional gender roles as can be seen from the figure below. In Central and Eastern Europe, there is still a large proportion of the population that believes men should be prioritised for jobs when there is a scarcity of work. This is in stark contrast to Scandinavia and Western Europe where such views are much less common. The big difference between countries such as France and Bulgaria however is in the views of men and not women. In France, 18% of women believe men should get priority for jobs when work is scarce and in Bulgaria it is only a little higher at 20%. However when we look at the same figures for men they are 19% and 41% respectively. This would suggest that the biggest difference between Western Europe and Eastern Europe is men's attitudes towards gender equality. The large difference in attitudes between men and women in Eastern Europe could also be causing very different expectations about family life, careers and relationships as men seek traditional arrangements whilst women seek gender equality.

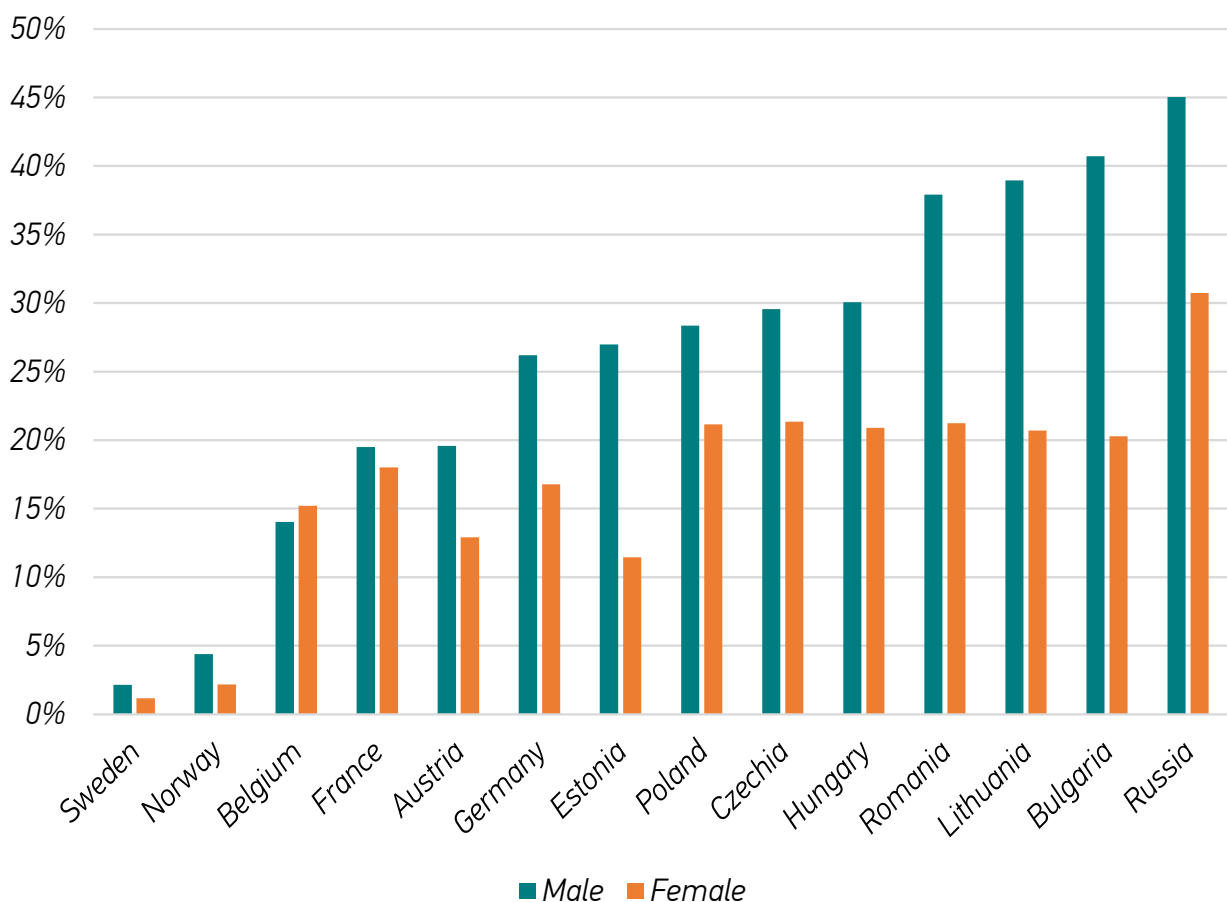


Figure 1: The percentage who agree that men should have priority for jobs when they are scarce

Note: Source: Generations and Gender Survey, Wave 1. Population aged 18-79 years old who either agree or strongly agree with the statement that "when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women"

Recently published GGP studies

Dereuddre, R., Van de Velde, S., & Bracke, P. (2016). Gender inequality and the 'East-West' divide in contraception: An analysis at the individual, the couple, and the country level. *Social Science & Medicine*, 161, 1-12.

Abstract: Despite generally low fertility rates in Europe, contraceptive behavior varies to a substantial extent. The dichotomy between Western, and Central and Eastern European countries is particularly relevant. Whereas the former are characterized by the widespread use of modern contraception, the latter show a high prevalence of traditional methods to control fertility. The current study aims to examine whether these differences can be attributed to differences in women's individual status, and in gender inequality at the couple and the country level. We combine data from the Generations and Gender Survey (2004-2011) and the Demographic Health Survey (2005-2009), covering seventeen European countries, to perform multinomial multilevel analyses. The results confirm that higher educated and employed women, and women who have an equal occupational status relative to their partner are more likely to use modern reversible contraception instead of no, traditional, or permanent methods. Absolute and relative employment are also positively related to using female instead of male methods. Furthermore, it is shown that higher levels of country-level gender equality are associated with a higher likelihood of using modern reversible and female methods, but not sterilization. Particularly country levels of gender equality are linked to the East-West divide in type of contraceptive method used. Our findings underscore that women's higher status is closely related to their use of effective, female contraception.

Fischer, M. M., Kalmijn, M., & Steinmetz, S. (2016). Does tolerance matter? A comparative study of well-being of persons in same-sex and mixed-sex unions across nine European countries. *European Societies*, 1-21.

Abstract: In this study, we examine whether there is a well-being gap between persons in same-sex and mixed-sex unions. We consider the possible role that tolerance of homosexuality plays in the size of this gap by comparing these union types across nine European countries with varying levels of normative and legal tolerance (informal and formal institutional contexts, respectively). For social well-being, results indicate that the well-being gap indeed depends on both the informal and formal institutional contexts in a country. In intolerant societies, persons in same-sex unions have lower social well-being than persons in mixed-sex unions, whereas they fare slightly better in tolerant societies. We found that the normative dimension of tolerance matters more for the social well-being gap than the legal dimension. In line with our hypotheses, findings also show that men in same-sex couples are more affected by differences in the informal institutional context than women in same-sex couples. For depressive feelings, no significant joint effect of union type for either measure of tolerance was found. Overall, we demonstrate the theoretical usefulness of treating tolerance at the contextual level as a predictor of well-being by empirically testing the link between tolerance and well-being. We suggest considering intolerance also as a social problem on the country level, which is distinct from intolerance on the interpersonal level.

Perelli-Harris, B., & Lyons-Amos, M. (2016). Partnership Patterns in the United States and across Europe: The Role of Education and Country Context. *Social Forces*. DOI: 10.1093/sf/sow054

Abstract: Patterns of partnership formation and dissolution are changing dramatically across the Western world. Some scholars have argued that women's trajectories of union formation and dissolution are diverging by education, with the higher educated postponing but eventually marrying and the lower educated more likely to cohabit or divorce if they do marry. At the same time, the variation in partnership behavior has also increased across countries, suggesting that country context plays an important role. Here, we use latent class growth models to compare the educational gradient of partnership trajectories in the United States and 14 countries in Europe and investigate the role of education and country context. Our results indicate a consistent positive educational gradient for partnership patterns showing the postponement of marriage, regardless of whether marriage was preceded by cohabitation, but a less consistent gradient for patterns reflecting long-term cohabitation and union dissolution. Although the US results show evidence of an educational divergence in marriage and union dissolution, the evidence from the other countries is weak. In addition, country context explains more of the variation in class membership than education, with context becoming more important over time. The divergence in behaviors across country contexts suggests that social, cultural, political, and economic developments are essential for understanding changes in partnership formation and dissolution.

Announcements

Save the Date: 4th GGP User Conference in Berlin

July 6-7, 2017 WZB | Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

We are delighted to announce that the 4th GGP User Conference is to be held at the Berlin Social Science Centre on 6th-7th July 2017. There will also be a day of GGP training on 5th July for early career researchers. More information and a call for papers will follow in due course but we look forward to seeing you all in Berlin for what promises to be an exciting and eventful conference.

New Data Released

We are pleased to announce an update to both Wave 1 and Wave 2 of the Generations and Gender Survey. Many of the changes are fairly superficial and relate to either new additional data (e.g. weights) or small corrections to existing variables. The data updates also include the wave 2 data for both Russia and Italy. For Italy, due to severe resource constraints, only a partial harmonization was conducted and therefore routing harmonization was not possible and users should analyse this data with considerable caution and assess the question universe that is applied in Italy.

The GGP is hiring

The GGP Coordination team at NIDI is currently recruiting for two new positions within the project: a Data Technician and an International Liason Officer. The positions are based at NIDI in the Hague and will assist the existing coordination team with preparations for a new round of data collection in 2019. The closing date for applications is 3rd November 2016. More information about these positions can be found on the [NIDI website](#).



Generations & Gender Programme

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