

# Partnership paths following divorce and cohabitation dissolution

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## Introduction

- Increasing number of individuals dissolve their partnerships and form second and higher order unions
- + Positive effect of repartnering on household income, other resources and well-being
- Negative effect on children, transition is a potential stressor, increased instability of higher order unions

## Background

- Cohabitations usually connected to more transitions to and from new partnerships than marriages (Cavanagh and Huston 2006; Graefe and Licher 1999; Raley and Wildsmith 2004)
- Greater stigma associated with divorce
- Greater relationship "baggage" of divorced individuals (Poortman and Lyngstad 2007)
- Declining effect hypothesis (Albertini and Garriga 2011)

## Methods

- GGS 1st wave, women only
- Event-history analysis
- **Dependent variables:** Time to new partnership formation, time to dissolution of second partnerships
- **Controls:** duration of previous partnership, type of previous partnership, child presence in previous partnership, age at exiting previous partnership, education (time varying), child presence (time varying), cohort, country + marriage (time varying), child presence (time varying) and age at start of the second union

## Research Questions and Hypotheses

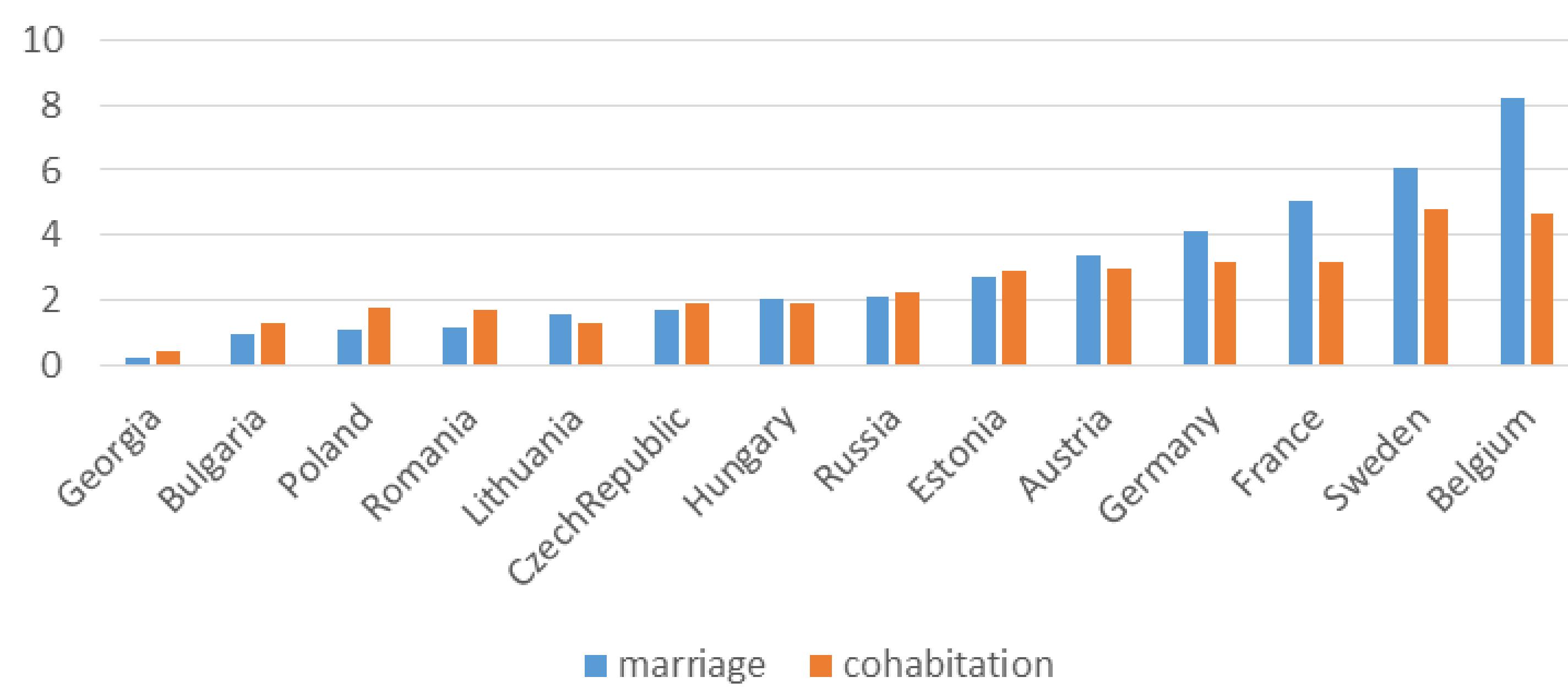
How do former cohabiters and married individuals differ in their partnership paths in cross-national comparison?

H1: Former cohabiters form a new relationship faster than former marrieds.

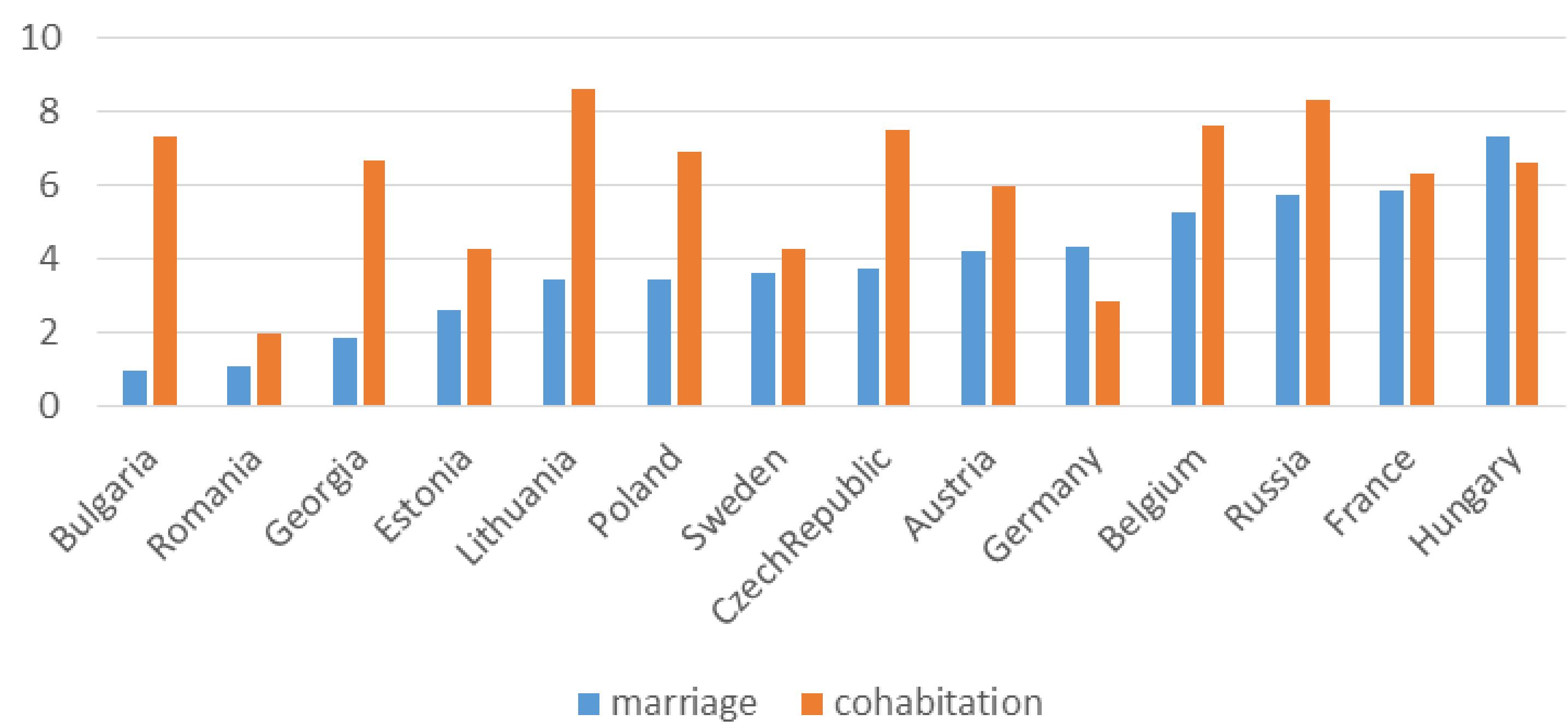
H2: Former cohabiters are more likely to dissolve their second partnerships.



### Risk of repartnering after marriage and cohabitation dissolution



### Risk of dissolution of the second union after marriage and cohabitation dissolution



## Summary of results

- Women who experienced cohabitation dissolution are more likely to enter into second coresident partnership than formerly married women
- This effect is driven by characteristics of former cohabiters (younger age, childlessness...)
- In western European countries people are much more likely to enter into second unions after divorce
- Former cohabiters are generally more likely to dissolve their second unions
- Smaller difference in dissolution risk for formerly married and cohabiting in western European countries

## Conclusions & Discussion

- We observe international variation in the pace in which individuals move to second unions and in the stability of the second unions
- Lower stigma of divorce in western European countries - declining effect hypothesis (Albertini and Garriga 2011)

Literature:  
Albertini, Marco and Anna Garriga. 2011. "The Effect of Divorce on Parent-child Contacts: Evidence on Two Declining Effect Hypotheses." *European Societies* 13(2):257-78.  
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Raley, R. Kelly and Elizabeth Wildsmith. 2004. "Cohabitation and Children's Family Instability." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(1):210-19.

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