

GGP AT A GLANCE

Did you know?

Over the past decades family formation behaviour has diversified in Europe. The graph below, based on the Generations and Gender Survey, displays the percentage of men and women who have followed a traditional pathway in their family formation, that is, they experienced the following sequence of events: they first left the parental home, then married, after which they had their first child, and they experienced all three events before the age of 30. The results show a large decrease across cohorts in the percentage following such a traditional pathway. For example, in France more than 60% of people born between 1945 and 1954 followed a traditional family pathway, while this figure was down to 30% for people born between 1965 and 1974. The changes in family formation behaviour are more pronounced in West-European countries than in Central- and East-European countries.

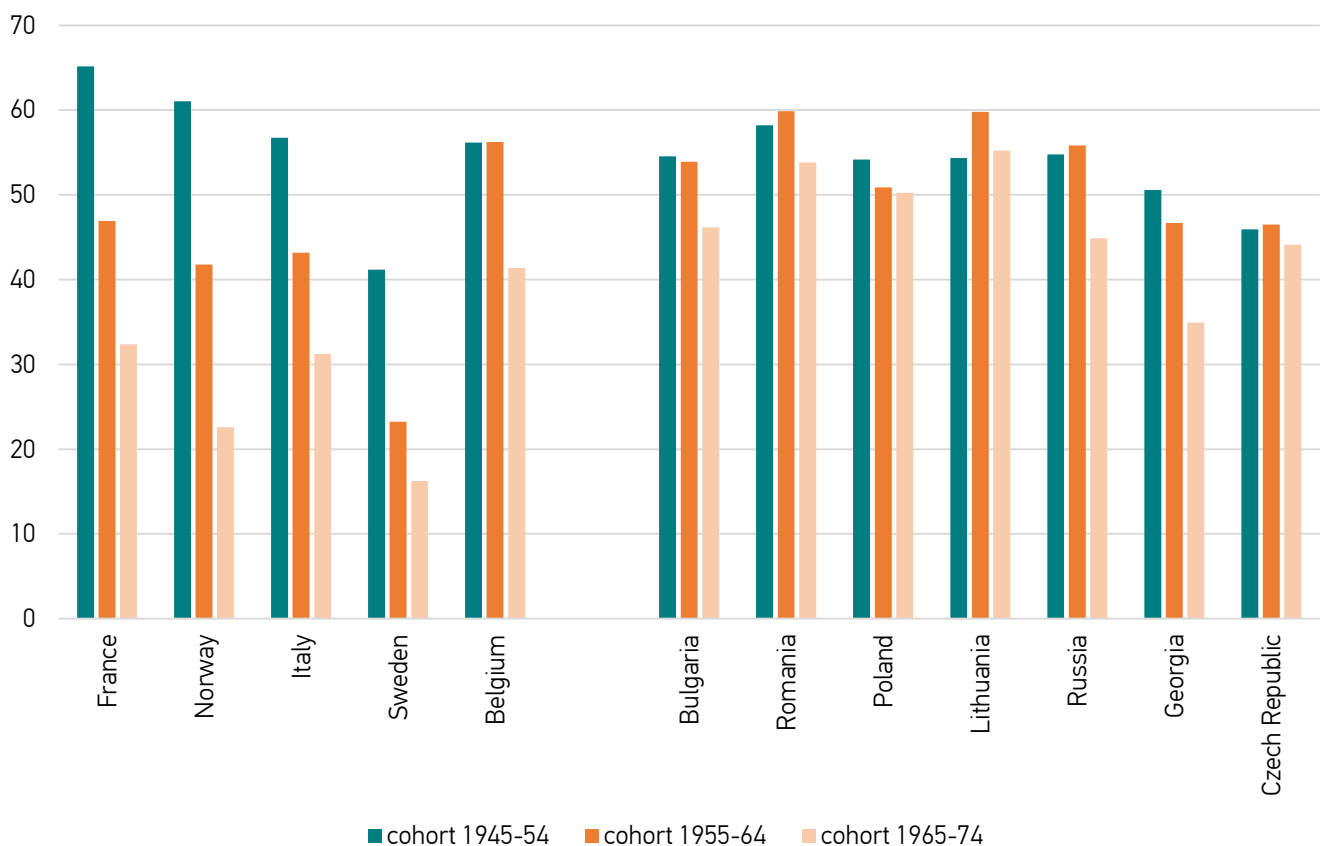


Figure 1: Percentage of men and women who followed a traditional family pathway in 12 countries by birth cohort

Source: GGS Wave 1. A traditional family pathway is defined as individuals who leaves the parental home, then gets married and then has their first child, all before they are 30. Individuals who experience these events out of this sequence or who have not experienced these events by the age of 30 are coded as 'non-traditional'.

Recently published GGP studies

Hanappi, D. and Buber-Ennsner, I., 2017. When Paid Work Matters for Fertility Intentions and Subsequent Behavior: Evidence from Two Waves of the Austrian Gender and Generation Survey. *Comparative Population Studies*, 42, pp. 245-280. [dx.doi.org/10.12765/CPoS-2017-15en](https://doi.org/10.12765/CPoS-2017-15en)

Abstract: The anticipated risk of job loss and material insecurity are related to fertility postponement in the same way as unemployment is. Given the sequential nature of fertility and occupational decisions, unfavorable working conditions should be resolved before having children, and result in an increase in people's assignment of importance to paid work when developing their childbearing plans. This work demonstrates this link, focusing on perceived employment and material insecurity, the importance assigned to paid work in forming fertility intentions, the construction of fertility intentions, and their realization. Using two waves of the Austrian Generations & Gender Survey, probit regressions are applied to analyze gender variations in the associations between uncertainty conditions, the importance of paid work, fertility intentions and behavior. Results reveal that work and related benefits become salient when they are insecure, and that material insecurity among men discourages childbearing. For women, there is support for the hypothesis that the anticipated risk of job loss inhibits the realization of fertility intentions – intentions which are less likely to be constructed under such conditions from the onset of family planning processes.

Lewin, A.C., 2017. Intentions to Live Together Among Couples Living Apart: Differences by Age and Gender. *European Journal of Population*, pp.1-23. doi.org/10.1007/s10680-017-9446-0

Abstract: A central question about living apart together (LAT) is whether these partnerships are short-term arrangements due to temporary constraints, and should be viewed as part of courtship towards cohabitation and marriage, or whether they replace cohabitation and marriage as a long-term arrangement. To address this question this study uses the Generations & Gender Programme survey data for eleven European countries to examine intentions to live together among people living apart by age and gender. The findings reveal an interesting interaction of age and gender. More specifically, younger women have higher intentions to live together than younger men, but older women have lower intentions than older men. These gender differences remain significant also in the multivariate analyses. These findings suggest that older women in LAT may be undoing gender to a greater extent than younger women, who still intend to live in a more traditional (and probably gendered) arrangement of cohabitation and possibly marriage. Having resident children reduces intentions to live together among people younger than age 50, but the effect does not differ by gender. The effect of non-resident children on intentions to live together is statistically non-significant.

Zoutewelle-Terovan, M. and Liefbroer, A.C., 2017. Swimming Against the Stream: Non-normative Family Transitions and Loneliness in Later Life Across 12 Nations. *The Gerontologist*, pp. 1-13. [doi:10.1093/geront/gnx184](https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx184)

Abstract: This article examines whether deviations from culturally based scripts regarding family transitions represent risk factors for later-life loneliness. Moreover, it analyzes whether and in which conditions long-term associations between family transitions and loneliness differ across nations. The analyses use micro-level data from the Generations & Gender Survey Wave 1 for 12 European countries. The sample comprises 61,082 individuals aged 50–85. The research questions are addressed using a step-wise approach based on linear regression analyses, meta-analyses, and meta-regressions. Results show that never having lived with a partner and childlessness are most strongly related to later-life loneliness. Whereas early transitions are unrelated to later-life loneliness, the postponement of partnership, and parenthood are associated with higher levels of loneliness compared to having experienced these transitions “on-time”. Childlessness is more strongly associated with later-life loneliness in more traditionalist countries than in less traditionalist ones. This study reveals that individuals with non-normative family transitions are more exposed to loneliness in old age, and that this exposure is related to societal context. In traditionalist contexts, where people rely on families for support, older adults who have experienced non-normative family behavior, and childlessness in particular, may be particularly at risk of loneliness.

Announcements

Call for Abstracts

Qualitative and Quantitative Longitudinal Research on Social Change and its Impacts

July 9-11, 2018 | University of Milano-Bicocca | Italy

The [Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies](#) announces its conference on qualitative and quantitative longitudinal research on social change and its impacts. Submissions from many areas of longitudinal and life course studies are welcome: physical, psychological, social developmental and ageing processes and functioning within and across life course stages from infancy to old age; methods and findings of cohort studies; other sources of longitudinal data such as panel studies and record linkage; international comparisons; household, and income dynamics; gene-environment interactions; 'mixed', and comparative methods; innovative methodology in design, measurement, data management, analysis and research practice (quantitative and qualitative). Deadline for submission of abstracts is **19 January 2018**. Further information may be found [here](#) or obtained from info@slls.org.uk.

Call for Abstracts

Postponement of Parenthood Conference

September 3-6, 2018 | Villa Vigoni | Lake Como | Italy

The [Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research](#), [London School of Economics and Political Science](#), and [Bocconi University](#), with support from the European Research Council, cordially invite submissions to a conference on the [Postponement of Parenthood](#) to be held in Italy in September 2018.

The secular increase in the mean age at childbearing is one of the most notable demographic developments of our times. This conference will take a multidisciplinary stance to explore the causes and consequences of this process, in order to assess its costs and gains. Organisers welcome research papers on the potential consequences of childbearing at older ages for the health and well-being of parents, children, and populations, as well as the cultural, socioeconomic, technological, and policy factors that may explain why parents are delaying childbearing to older ages. Submissions from all disciplines are welcome. Deadline for submission of extended abstracts (2-4 pages) or full papers is **February 15th 2018** to costpost2018@demogr.mpg.de.

Save the Date

European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference

July 15-19, 2019 | Zagreb | Croatia

The Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb local organisers of the have **announced** that the ESRA conference will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 15th to 19th July 2019. Provisional key dates include: May – July 2018, Call for Session Proposals | Late August 2018, Decisions communicated to session proposers | September 2018 – Mid December 2018, Call for Paper Proposals | Mid-February 2019, Decisions communicated to paper proposers, Registration opens | Mid-June 2019, Registration Deadline.

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