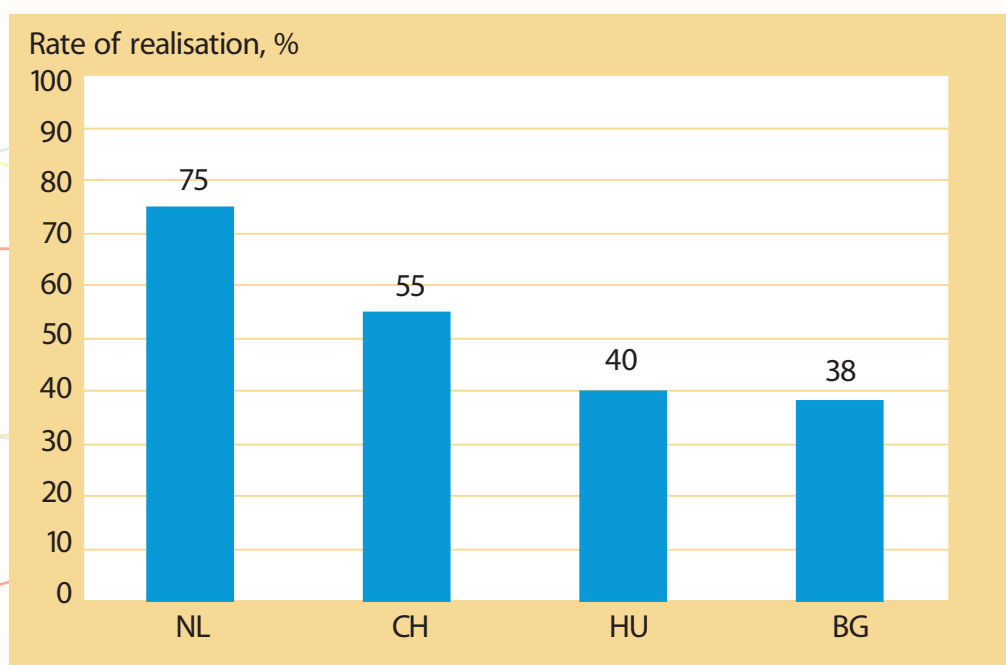


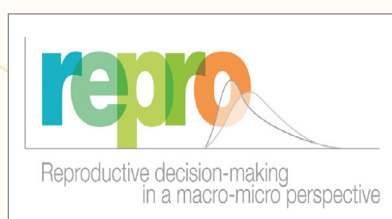
The realisation of fertility intentions in Europe

It is a well-known fact that there is considerable gap between intended fertility and the level of fertility in Europe at the societal level. At the same time, some researchers found also discrepancies between intentions and realized fertility at the micro-level, however international comparisons are rare in this field. Within the REPRO project, we analysed how individuals were able to realise their short-term (two-year) fertility intentions within three years and what factors can help or hinder the realisation of intentions. As the figure below demonstrates, the rate of realisation of intentions is much lower in the two post-socialist countries than in the Netherlands and Switzerland. In the two latter countries, the majority of planned children were born. Frequent social change obstructs the realisation of intentions in post-communist countries. Besides, it holds in all the examined countries that people who are young, who live in a stable partnership and who have one child are able to realise their intentions the most. However, there are some country-specific characteristics: sign of childlessness is remarkable in Switzerland and the spread of one-child families is perceptible in Bulgaria.

**The rate of realisation of short-term (two-year) fertility intentions
within three years in Europe in the middle of the 2000s**



Source: Own calculation, based on the harmonized panel surveys



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