



HUNGARIAN DEMOGRAPHIC
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CHILDCARE, GENDER ROLE AND FAMILY ATTITUDES IN SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Aim and motivation

- Incomplete gender revolution – gender inequality in family institutions (e.g. Goldscheider 2000, McDonald 2000)
- Persistent inequality (e.g. Breen 2005) or slow convergence (e.g. Gersuny 2000, Gauthier et al. 2004, Sayer et al. 2004, Hook 2006, Geist & Cohen 2011) **between women and men in domestic work and child care**
- Slowly changing gender roles and family attitudes (e.g. Inglehart & Norris 2003, Jansen & Liefbroer 2009)
- Fathers with more egalitarian gender roles do more child care and housework than more traditional ones (Aldous et al. 1998, Appelbaum et al. 2000, Bianchi et al. 2000, Bulanda 2004, Gaunt 2006)
- → the role of men and fathers in families
- → within- and between country differences

Research questions

1. How female and male family and gender roles are viewed in different European countries? How are these attitudes structured?
2. How family and gender role attitudes are related to one dimension of family functioning, i.e. the gendered distribution of child care among couples with children?

Data and methods 1

- *Data*: Generations and Gender Survey, Wave 1, 2005/2007/2011, n = 10,000 – 20,000 per country
- *Countries*: Norway, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania
- *Samples*:
 - The analysis of family and gender role attitudes: full sample
 - The analysis of child care: respondents living with a partner/spouse and with at least one child aged 0-14
- *Distribution of child care*:
who does the following tasks: dressing the children, putting them to bed, staying at home when ill, playing, helping with homework, taking to/from school
→ index: -6 if the man does all the tasks, +6 if the woman does all, 0 if equally distributed

Data and methods 2

- *Attitude items:*
 - A woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled.
 - A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled.
 - A child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily.
 - In a couple it is better for the man to be older than the woman.
 - If a woman earns more than her partner, it is not good for the relationship.
 - On the whole, men make better political leaders than women do.
 - Looking after the home or the family is just as fulfilling as working for pay.
 - A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his/her mother works.
 - Children often suffer because their fathers concentrate too much on their work.
 - When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women.
- → *Factor analysis*, instead of the dichotomy of traditional vs. egalitarian

Results



HDRI

Gender role and family attitudes: factor analysis

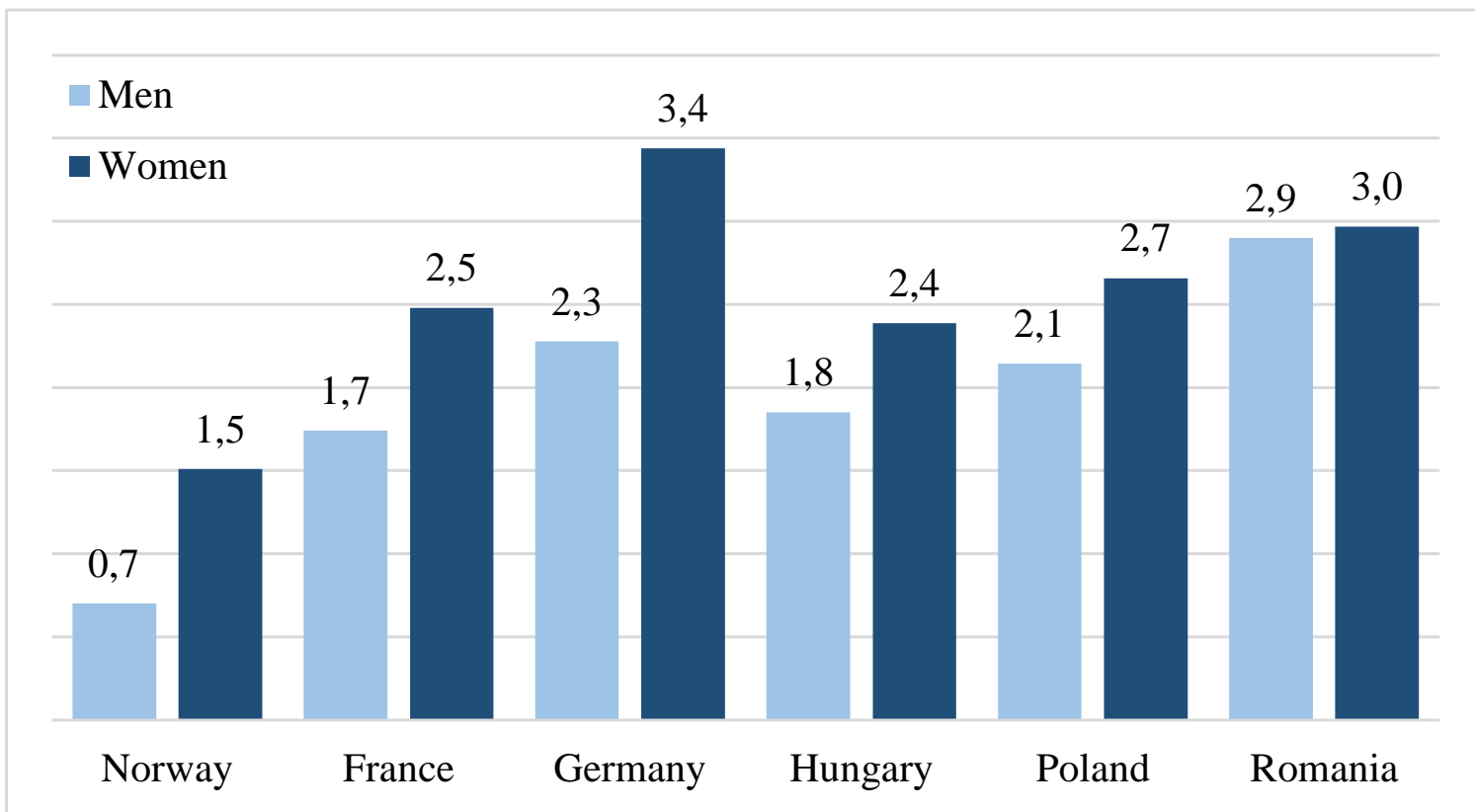
	Factor 1: The ideal family	Factor 2: Gender inequality	Factor 3: At home with children
A woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled.	0.922	0.141	0.086
A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled.	0.925	0.121	0.053
A child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily.	0.647	0.075	0.274
In a couple it is better for the man to be older than the woman.	0.253	0.650	0.078
If a woman earns more than her partner, it is not good for the relationship.	0.030	0.694	0.219
On the whole, men make better political leaders than women do.	0.204	0.721	-0.004
Looking after the home or the family is just as fulfilling as working for pay.	0.163	-0.130	0.495
A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his/her mother works.	0.259	0.265	0.745
Children often suffer because their fathers concentrate too much on their work.	0.022	0.022	0.845
When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women.	0.218	0.626	0.097

Factor loadings, varimax rotation, explained variance: 60%

Mean factor scores by country

	Norway	France	Germany	Hungary	Poland	Romania
The ideal family	-1.10	0.33	-0.45	0.56	-0.19	0.53
Gender inequality	-0.41	-0.59	-0.11	0.26	0.36	0.34
At home with children	-0.36	0.01	0.04	0.76	0.06	-0.55

The distribution of child care tasks: mean index scores by country and sex



The relationship between gender role and family attitudes and the distribution of child care

	Norway	France	Germany	Hungary	Poland	Romania
Female respondents						
The ideal family	-0.031	-0.036	0.047	-0.020	0.002	0.036
Gender inequality	0.063*	0.004	0.119***	0.083**	0.044*	0.033
At home with children	0.121***	0.031	0.111***	0.037	-0.003	0.030
Male respondents						
The ideal family	0.018	0.126***	0.075*	0.006	-0.016	0.003
Gender inequality	0.079*	0.125***	0.134***	0.115***	0.065**	0.116***
At home with children	-0.031	0.044	0.030	0.001	0.023	-0.010

*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05

Linear regression models, standardized beta coefficients. Age of the respondent; the number of children and the age of the youngest child in the household; child care help; subjective household income; the education, labour market status and working time of the respondent and the partner are controlled.



Conclusions

- *Gender role and family attitudes:*
 - Multi-dimensional construct
 - Three factors: "the ideal family", "gender inequality", "at home with children"
 - Different levels and configurations of these factors by country
- *Child care tasks:*
 - Women do more, country differences
 - Positive relationship between the "gender inequality" factor and the unequal distribution of child care (female burden) in all the countries and for both men and women
 - "The ideal family" and the "at home with children" factors may represent more general attitudes, not directly translated to family practices
- *Limitations:* no dyadic data, possible selection and adaptation effects, difficulty of index comparison (measurement)

Thank you for your attention!

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