



# **Gender attitudes in post-crisis Europe**

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# Research problem

- Crisis touched the economy of most European countries though to a different extent. It impacted objective living conditions of people including the situation in the labor market. The changing economic situation in its turn should effect gender attitudes.
- According to the OECD report, gender equality fosters economic growth in education and labor market (OECD (2012))
- **The objective** of the paper is to reveal the impact of economic crisis upon gender attitudes of population of European countries. In the current research both micro- and macro indicators are taken into account.

## Previous research

- Structure of gender attitudes and on its change it time (Alesina and Giulino 2010; Braun, Gloeckner-Rist 2011; Bolzendahl Myers 2004; Cunningham 2008; Guiso 2003; Guveli, Need and de Graaf 2007, Pampel 2011; Voicu, Tufis 2012).
- Impact of crisis upon the actual behavior of men and women (added workers, segmentation hypothesis, gender segregation hypothesis) (Bettio, Vereshagina, Karamessini, Rubery, 2013)

# Theoretical background

**Social role theory:** people adopt the attitudes which are consistent with the roles they occupy (Eagly, Karau)

**Cognitive dissonance theory:** when a social role does not match the attitude, the person is likely to change either the role, or the attitude (Kroska)

**Allocation of energy:** women are strongly affected by their household responsibilities (Becker)

# Theoretical background

- **Interest-based approach:** individuals that benefit from egalitarian work-related gender attitudes tend to share more egalitarian work-related gender attitudes. To this category refer women, work force and so on (Bolzendahl, Catherine, Myers, Daniel J., 2004, Pampel, 2011)
- **Exposure-based approach:** individuals change their ideas and attitudes when they meet the situation that discord with these ideas. In respect to gender issues it is possible to point out work-force participation, education and socialization. By socialization is meant mother's work status and mother's education (Bolzendahl, Catherine, Myers, Daniel J., 2004, Pampel, 2011)

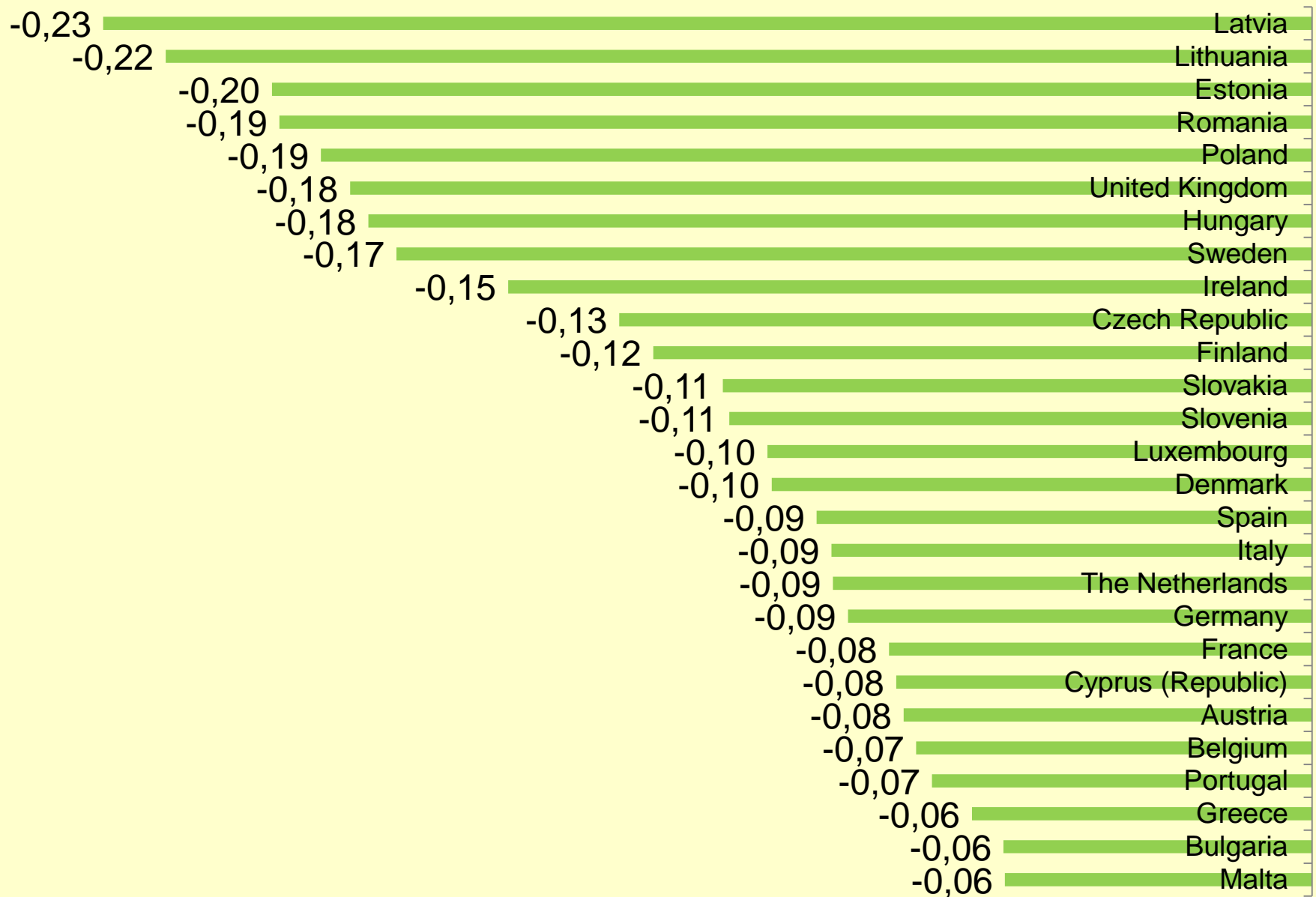
## Hypotheses

- Crisis itself on both an individual and country level did not impact gender attitudes because it had different effect on gender attitudes of different groups. On one hand, crisis can lead to the shift of gender attitudes to more traditional as gender attitudes are associated with economic development (Inglehart, Foa, Ponarin, Welzel, 2013). On the other hand, it can lead to the formation of more egalitarian gender attitudes of the groups that had to adapt to the new situation.
- The women affected by crisis should have more egalitarian gender attitudes.
- People living in single households with children influenced by crisis should have more egalitarian gender attitudes.
- The gender attitudes of low educated groups should shift to more traditional.

## **Data base**

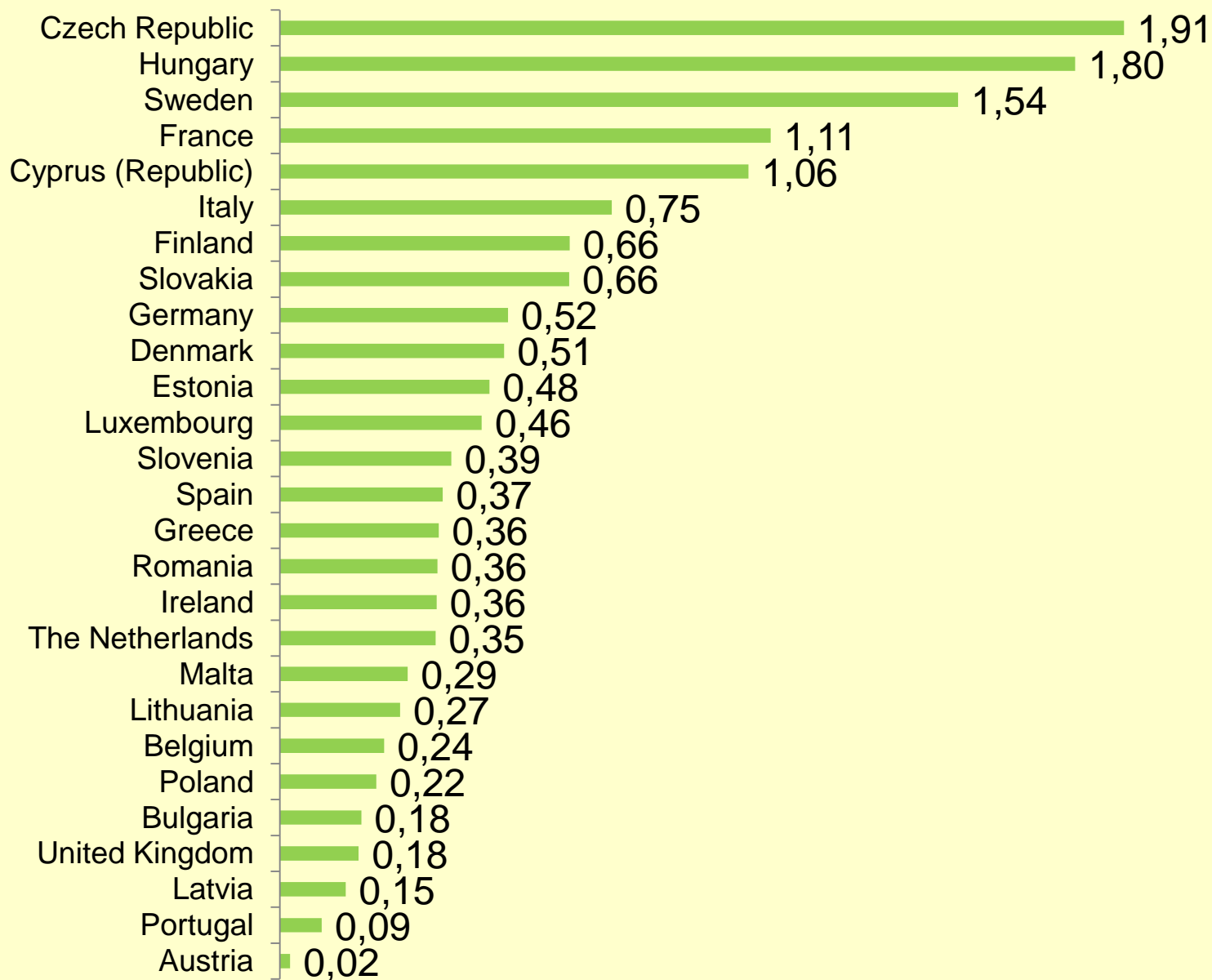
- Eurobarometer 2011
- 27 countries
- Sample: 18 – 65 years old

## Drop of GDP per capita between 2008 and 2009 (in %)





## Increase of unemployment rate between 2008 and 2009 (in %)



## Countries

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Germany
- Estonia
- Ireland
- Greece
- Spain
- France
- Italy
- Cyprus
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Hungary
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Austria
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- Finland
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

## **Index of gender attitudes: women are less competent for public duties**

- Women are less interested than men in positions of responsibility
- Women are less willing than men to fight to make a career for themselves
- Women do not always have the necessary qualities and skills to fill positions of responsibility

# **Multilevel regression: model specification**

## **Dependent variable:**

index of gender attitudes (the same weight of three categories). Ranges from 0 to 10.

0 –traditional gender attitudes

10 – egalitarian gender attitudes

# Multilevel regression: independent variables

## Individual level:

- you or partner lost job
- Education-age: baseline – still studying or haven't finished education before 20
- high qualified (baseline), low qualified or not working
- level in society (proxy for income)
- baseline – multiple household without children
- Family structure: multiple household without children (baseline), single Household without children, single Household with children, multiple Household with children
- Age groups: baseline: 18-24 (baseline), 25-39, 40-54, 55-65
- Sex (female)

# **Multilevel regression: independent variables**

## **Country level**

- GDP (2011)
- Change in GDP (from 2008 to 2009)
- Unemployment rate (2011)
- Change in unemployment rate (from 2008 to 2009)

## **Interaction effects**

- With gender, family structure, education

## Multilevel regression models: macro level – GDP per capita

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Intercept	6.657***	6.422***	6.677***	6.740***
Yes, as a direct consequence of the crisis	-0.120*	-0.123*	-0.120*	-0.120*
Yes but not as a direct consequence of the crisis	-0.544***	-0.549***	-0.546***	-0.544***
Finished education before 20 or no full-time education	-0.182***	-0.188***	-0.181***	-0.304**
Single Household without children	0.059	0.06	0.224	0.057
Single Household with children	0.147	0.159*	0.519***	0.146
Multiple Household with children	0.015	0.017	-0.176	0.014
Female	0.755***	1.188***	0.755***	0.756***
55 – 65 years old	-0.281***	-0.274***	-0.276***	-0.282***
GDP per capita	0.000013*	0.000013*	0.000013*	0.000013*
GDP change	1.522	-0.346	1.675	2.146
Female*GDPchange		3.456***		
Single Household without children*GDPchange			1.272	
Single Household with children*GDPchange			2.86*	
Multiple Household with children*GDPchange			-1.547	
Low education*GDPchange				-0.956
<b>Model fit</b>				
AIC	75191	75167	75180	75192
Log likelihood	-37578	-37565	-37569	-37577
ICC	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.082
N (individuals)	16799	16799	16799	16799
N (countries)	29	29	29	29

# Multilevel regression models: macro level – unemployment rate

	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7	Model 8
Intercept	6.866***	6.779***	6.871***	6.921***
Yes, as a direct consequence of the crisis	-0.122*	-0.123*	-0.122*	-0.123*
Yes but not as a direct consequence of the crisis	-0.544***	-0.548***	-0.547***	-0.543***
Finished education before 20 or no full-time education	-0.183***	-0.191***	-0.184***	-0.272**
Single Household without children	0.059	0.057	0.085	0.058
Single Household with children	0.148	0.155*	0.315***	0.147
Multiple Household with children	0.014	0.016	-0.034	0.015
Female	0.755***	0.92***	0.755***	0.757***
55 – 65 years old	-0.280***	-0.274***	-0.279***	-0.279***
Unemployment rate	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
UR change	-0.29	-0.081	-0.293	-0.394
Female* URchange		-0.375***		
Single Household without children* URchange			-0.053	
Single Household with children* URchange			-0.353*	
Multiple Household with children* URchange			0.111	
Low education*URchange				0.193*
<b>Model fit</b>				
AIC	75196	75180	75194	75194
Log likelihood	-37580	-37571	-37576	-37578
ICC	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096
N (individuals)	16799	16799	16799	16799
N (countries)	29	29	29	29



## Main findings

- Our hypothesis of the impact of crisis on gender attitudes was partly confirmed. On country level the impact of crisis does not influence gender attitudes in general.
- Those who or whose partner has lost the job share more traditional gender attitudes (independently from gender, education, low or high qualified job or the general impact of crisis in the country).
- In the countries where GDP per capita dropped more or unemployment rate increased more as a result of crisis gender attitudes of women are more traditional.
- The gender attitudes of those who live in single households with children in general are more egalitarian. In countries where GDP per capita decreased and unemployment rate increased more as a result of crisis their attitudes are more traditional.
- Countries where unemployment raised from 2008 to 2009 gender attitudes of low educated are more egalitarian.

**Thank you for your attention!**