

# **European Large Families Confederation Survey on the Conditions and Policies regarding Large Families**

Pau Serra del Pozo, Livia Sz. Oláh and Iwona Sztajner

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# European Large Families Confederation Survey on the Conditions and Policies regarding Large Families

Pau Serra del Pozo<sup>1,3</sup>, Livia Sz. Oláh<sup>2</sup> and Iwona Sztajner<sup>3</sup>

## *Abstract:*

The European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC) is a civil society partner in the FamiliesAndSocieties consortium. It gathers large families associations and federations across Europe. In 2015 ELFAC launched a European-wide on-line survey on the living conditions of large families. Over 7800 large families participated. This working paper describes the contents of the survey and provides some basic results. The objectives of the survey were two-fold: 1) To shed more light on a family type that is little known in Europe, the large families (their structure and how they live, some of their motivations for having three or more children, etc.); 2) To assess whether family policies meet the need of large families. The main findings have also been reflected upon in the FamiliesAndSocieties Policy recommendations report, informing national, regional and local governments as well as the EU in order to facilitate evidence-based policy making.

*Keywords:* European large families; on-line survey; living conditions; determinants of fertility; family policies.

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## 1. Purpose and design of the survey

The European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC) is a civil society partner in the FamiliesAndSocieties project consortium. It gathers large families associations at the national and the local level from twenty countries across Europe<sup>1</sup>. In 2014 the ELFAC board decided to conduct an on-line survey on European large families, including both members and non-members of any of the national or local associations<sup>2</sup>. The main aim of the survey was to contribute to evidence-based policy-making, by providing the project with in-depth information on large families in Europe. The knowledge gained will help policy-makers to take into account the needs of large families in their efforts to improve well-being for all, and hence promote sustainable societal development. The ELFAC board carried out the survey and assisted the authors of this working paper.

The objectives of the survey were two-fold: 1) To shed more light on a family type that is little known in Europe, the large families: their structure and how they live, some of their motivations for having three or more children, etc.; 2) To assess whether family policies meet the need of large families. The main findings have also been reflected upon in the FamiliesAndSocieties Policy recommendations report, informing national, regional and local governments as well as the EU, hence facilitating evidence-based policy making.

The “Conditions of Large Families in Europe” survey is probably the first large-scale comprehensive survey specifically addressing large families across Europe. The multilingual on-line survey was designed in twelve languages (English, Portuguese, Polish, Latvian, Italian, Greek, German, French, Estonian, Spanish, Hungarian and Czech) in the period of January 2015 to the end of July the same year. ELFAC had no funding to translate the questions of the survey, written originally in English, into the other eleven languages, therefore volunteers of its own national and local associations were asked to do the translations. At the end of July 2015 ELFAC launched the European-wide on-line survey focusing on the living conditions of large families at its website. National federations of ELFAC and other national family associations sent about 76000 email messages<sup>3</sup> to their (large family) members as well as to non-member large families inviting them to participate. Email addresses

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elfac.org/about-us/members>

<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.elfac.org/news/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=181&cHash=edf197a720328c0f40a7ada6fed3c554](http://www.elfac.org/news/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=181&cHash=edf197a720328c0f40a7ada6fed3c554)

<sup>3</sup> About 35000 messages were sent in Spain, 13000 in Italy, 8000 in Portugal, etc.

for non-member large families were known by ELFAC associations as those families subscribed to the email bulletins of the associations. They were informed that participation in the survey was not restricted to family members of ELFAC federations or associations. The on-line site was open to any large family parents willing to fill it in. Between August and October 2015, 7813 responses were collected: one response per large family, answered by one parent or both parents together. The next section provides information on the structure of the survey (see Appendix for details).

## 2. Survey structure

The survey data are organized in three files:

- **Main table** (Main table.xlsx):
- **Household members** (Members.xlsx)
- **Textual answers** (Free text.xlsx)

### 2.1 Main table (Main table.xlsx)

This file includes 251 fields. Every row corresponds to a family household (i.e. 7813 rows for as many families). Missing answers are kept blank. All fields had a drop-down menu where the respondent selected one option, except for one field<sup>4</sup>, which is displayed in the file "Free text.xlsx".

The fields are grouped into the following chapters:

#### A) Family ID:

- o Number of fields: one
- o Contents: the field "A\_Resp\_ID" is a unique identification code for every family

#### B) Main features of the household and household members:

- o Number of fields: 174 (field names with the prefix "B\_Hshld\_mmb\_")
- o Summary of the contents:

B1) Main features of the household and of parents (fields from "B\_Hshld\_mmb\_1\_..." up to "B\_Hshld\_mmb\_25\_..."): place of residence, citizenship, age, sex, income of the parents; whether intact or

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<sup>4</sup> The field: "C\_job\_conditions\_18\_Other job conditions: please specify them below"

reconstituted family; number of children; age of oldest and youngest children; etc.

B2) Features for every member of the household (fields from "B\_Hshld\_mmb\_25\_1\_..." up to "B\_Hshld\_mmb\_174\_25\_...", from person number 1 up to person number 25 in the household): relationship of the household members with the respondent, age, sex, education attained, main activity and chronic illness if any.

- C) Job conditions of the couple when they decided to have their third child:
- o Number of fields: 19 (field names with the prefix "C\_job\_conditions\_")
  - o Summary of the contents. All questions refer to circumstances at the time when the decision about having a third child was made: whether the wife<sup>5</sup> and the husband had a job by then; whether they had a permanent or temporary job; whether they worked full-time or part-time; whether paid or unpaid leaves were available for them; whether they took any leave by then; if applicable, how long leaves were taken.
- D) Residence-related and family- and friends factors:
- o Number of fields: 22 (fields names with the prefix "D\_residence\_")
  - o Summary of the contents: do the grandparents, friends of the couple or friends with large families live near your home? Is there a public or private child care centre near your home? Do you rely on publicly supported childcare or private childcare or on informal arrangements? Is your town / village family-friendly? Average number of the wife's and husband's sisters and brothers. (If applicable) Have the large families of your parents or of your friends inspired you both to have a large family?
- E) Governments help received any time by the family, for whichever children:
- o Number of fields: 25 (fields names with the prefix "E\_govt\_help\_")
  - o Summary of the contents: questions on five types of government support: 1) Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax

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<sup>5</sup> In the survey expressions such as spouse, wife and husband were used, no matter of the civil status (married or cohabiting couple). Also, expressions such as mother and father, female and male partners, parents or couples are used in this paper as synonyms irrespective of the couple being married or not.

or other taxes); 2) One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"); 3) Child allowance, per month; 4) Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month; 5) Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.).

For each support type five questions were to be answered: i) Was the help available, requested and obtained?; ii) If applicable, how many of your children have benefited from this help?; If available and used, how much did you get from iii) local governments altogether, (iv)/ regional governments altogether (v)/national government altogether?

F) Religion and religiosity:

- o Number of fields: 4 (fields names with the prefix "F\_religion\_")
- o Summary of the contents: wife's and husband's religion; wife's and husband's degree of religiosity (from 1 –lowest- to 5 –highest-).

G) Other factors:

- o Number of fields: 6 (fields names with the prefix "G\_other\_factors\_")
- o Summary of the contents: has your family received help from a large families association (yes/no). And a set of questions to assess from 1 to 5 (1 means least important; 5, most important) the importance of job conditions, residence-related as well as family- and friends factors, governments help received, religion and religiosity with respect to the parents' decision to raise a large family.

## 2.2 Household members (Members.xlsx)

Every row corresponds to a person in a family household (34145 rows or household members). There may be blank answers.

- o Number of fields: seven
- o Contents: this table shows a summary of the 174 fields of the chapter C) Main features of the household and household members of the Main table. For each person, the same seven fields apply:
  - "A\_Resp\_ID": unique identification code for every family. This field may be used to connect this table with the Main table.
  - Relationship: the respondent of the survey or other members of the household (spouse/ cohabitant partner, child, grandparent, etc.).
  - Sex
  - Age
  - Educational attainment

- Main activity (full-time work, student, homemaker, etc.)
- Chronic illness (yes/no)

### 2.3 Textual answers (Free text.xlsx)

Every row corresponds to a family household (i.e. 7813 rows or families). There may be blank answers. Textual answers in some fields have been converted into numbers, for instance in the fields with age information, the age range of "80-84" years old has been converted to the number 80; "Younger than 1" became "0" (years-old), and so on with similar types of expressions in age fields or in other fields.

This table includes some fields (the last six fields) which are free texts written by the family respondent. They may have been written in any of the twelve languages of the survey.

- o Number of fields: nine
- o Contents: the fields are:
  - "A\_Resp\_ID": unique identification code for every family. This field may be used to connect this table with the Main table.
  - "Language": one of the twelve survey languages chosen by the respondent; usually corresponds with the language used in the next fields.
  - "C\_job\_conditions\_18\_Other job conditions: please specify them below": this field is replicated, coming from the Main table.
  - "How do you parents manage raising your children? What are the difficulties you encounter? How do you solve them?"
  - "How should local, state or national governments help large families better?"
  - "Did the wife encounter problems in case she wanted to return to her job?"
  - "In your opinion, what is a family-friendly workplace and what are/should be its good practices?"
  - "In your opinion, what is a family-friendly town and what are/should be its good practices?"
  - "Tell us some other "large family good practices" you would like to share with us (how you manage to raise a large family with your large or scarce resources (time, money, etc.) and how you have got help from grandparents, schools, church, friends, associations, etc.)"



### 3. Selected descriptive findings

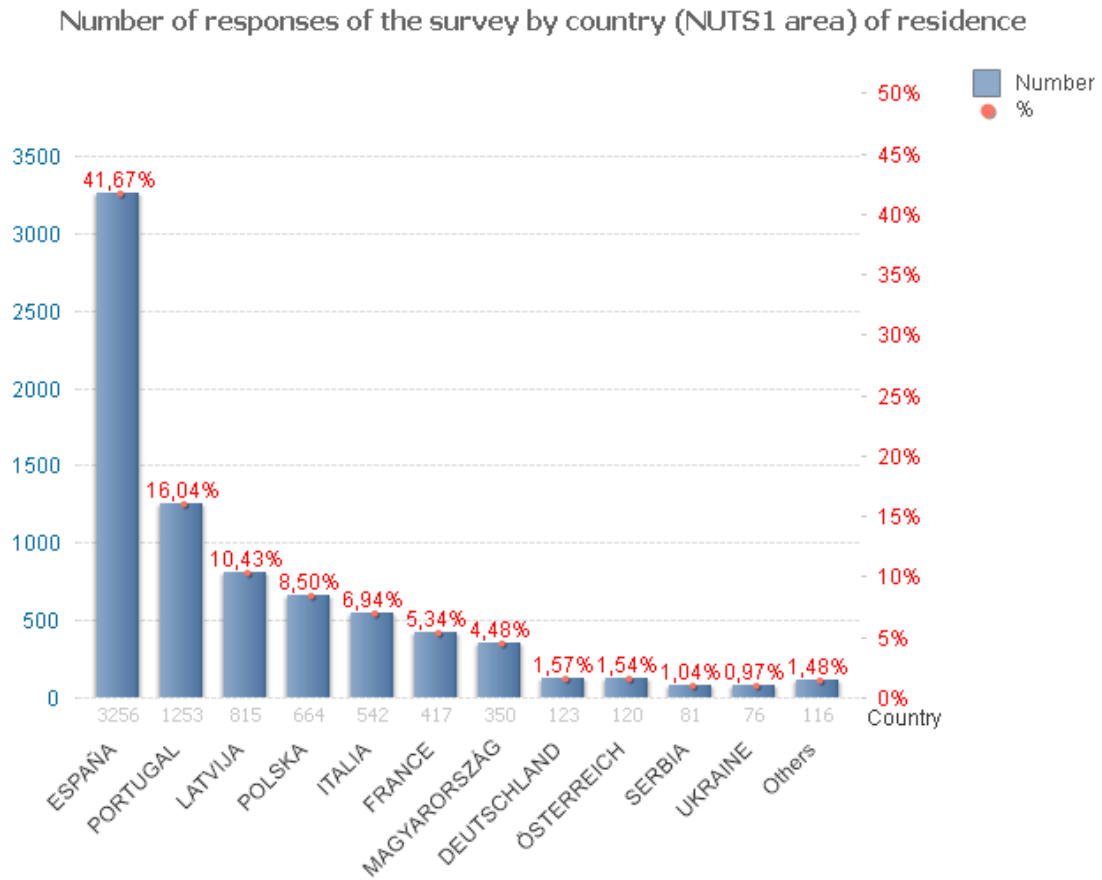
Below we discuss selected descriptive findings from the first European Large Families Confederation Survey on the Conditions and Policies regarding Large Families. The survey can be considered as the most important source providing in-depth knowledge about large families in Europe, their characteristics, information on factors that influenced their fertility decisions including job conditions and governmental support, residence-related features and the influence of religion and religiosity, among others.

Due to technical issues, information about the share of household and family tasks within large families cannot be used (as the total exceeds 100% for most cases, due to reporting mistake; hence the information is not included in the database). In any case, the survey provides an invaluable source of information on a number of aspects of large families and their living conditions. Researchers who wish to utilize the data for analyses and articles can download it from ELFAC's website. It is the hope of the European Large Families Confederation that the data will be widely analysed providing important information for policy makers to improve the lives of large families and enhance societal well-being.

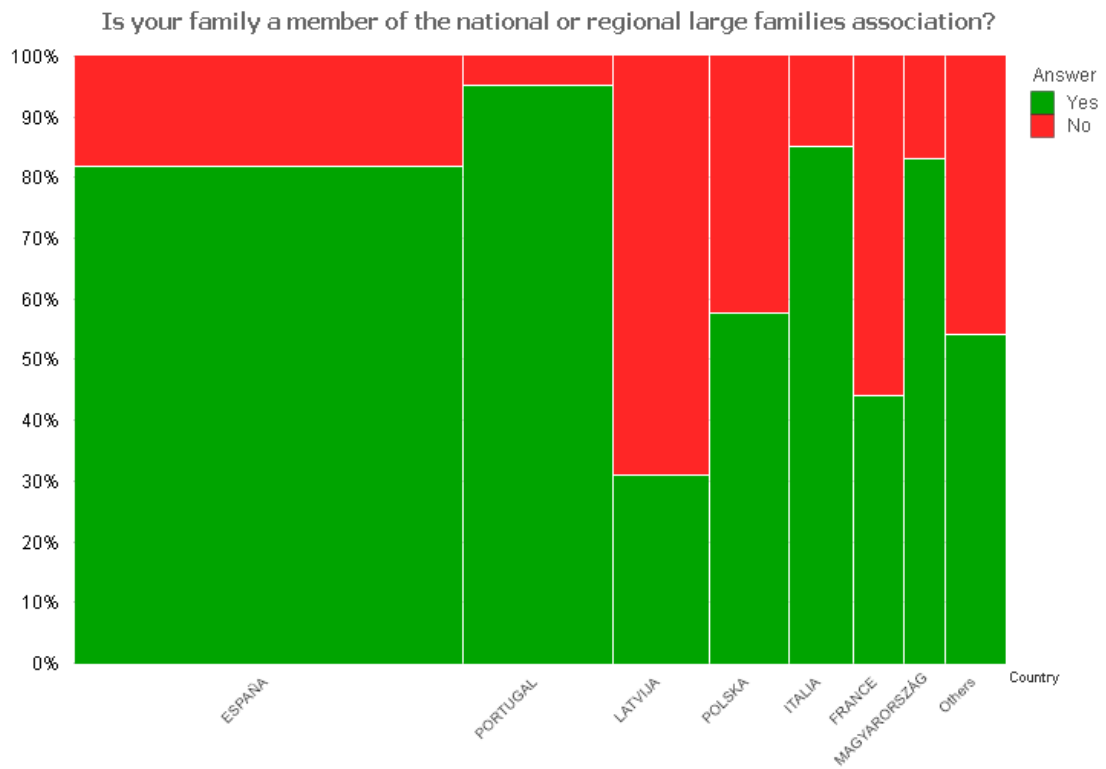
In the following, we present some descriptive results in line with the structure of the survey with brief comments. Country names in the charts are written mainly in the original language, please see here a complete list of country names also in English. Responses were received also from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom – but they were too few to be displayed separately, and are thus included in the category 'Others'.

Deutschland -	Germany
Espana -	Spain
France -	France
Italia -	Italy
Latvija -	Latvia
Magyarország -	Hungary
Österreich -	Austria
Polska -	Poland
Portugal -	Portugal
Serbia -	Serbia
Ukraine -	Ukraine

1) Main features of the household and household members:

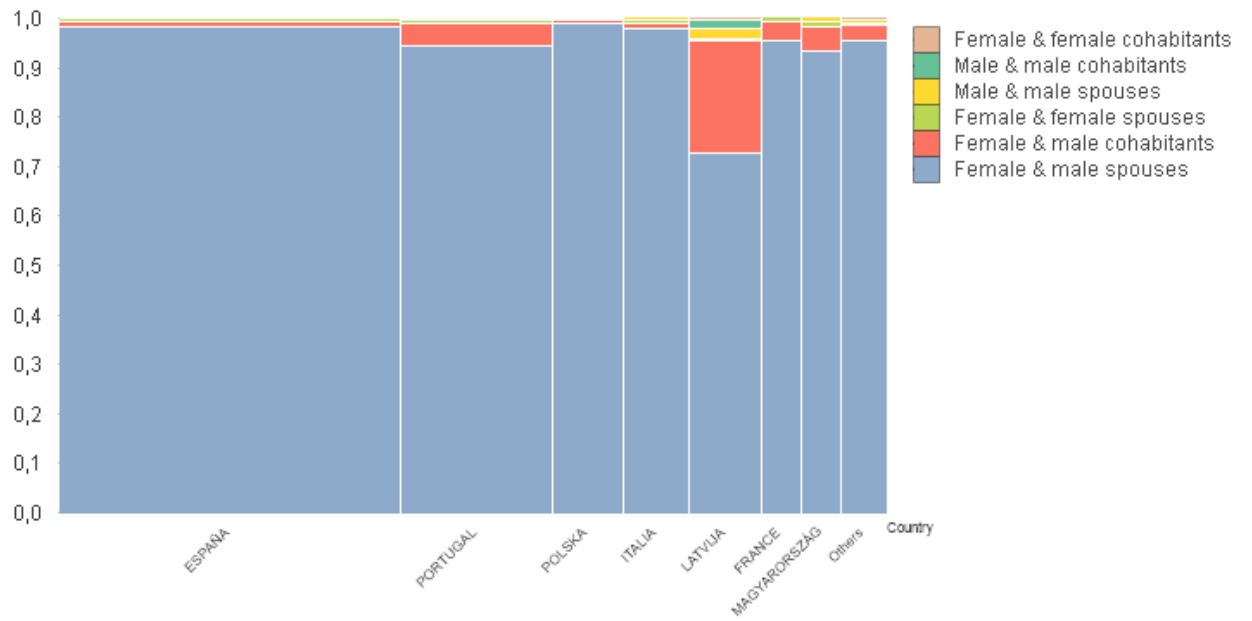


Large family parents in Spain provided over 41% of all the answers in ELFAC's survey. This is partly because Spain is the country with the largest number of ELFAC associations.

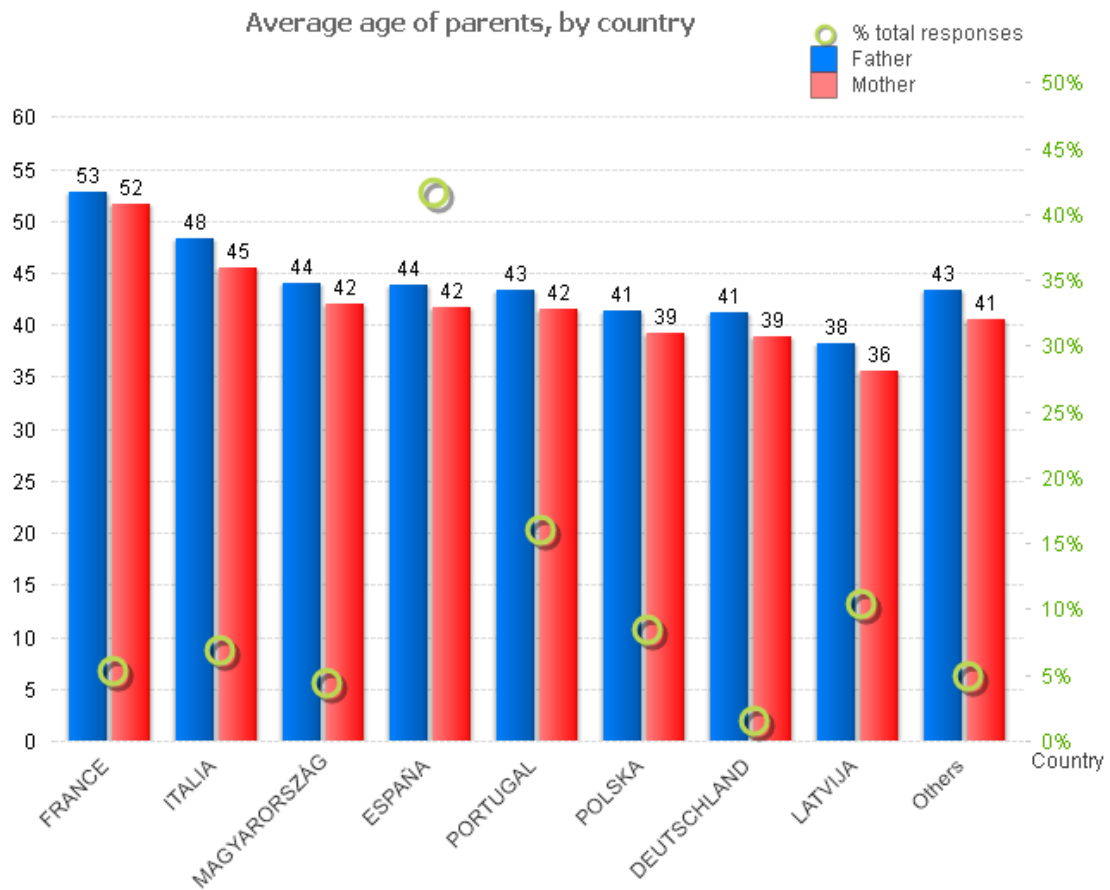


Nearly three quarters of the large family respondents (about 5700) belong to an association federated with ELFAC. There is substantial country variation however, and in Latvia and France, the majority of respondents lacked membership in any ELFAC association.

Head couples of the household, by country

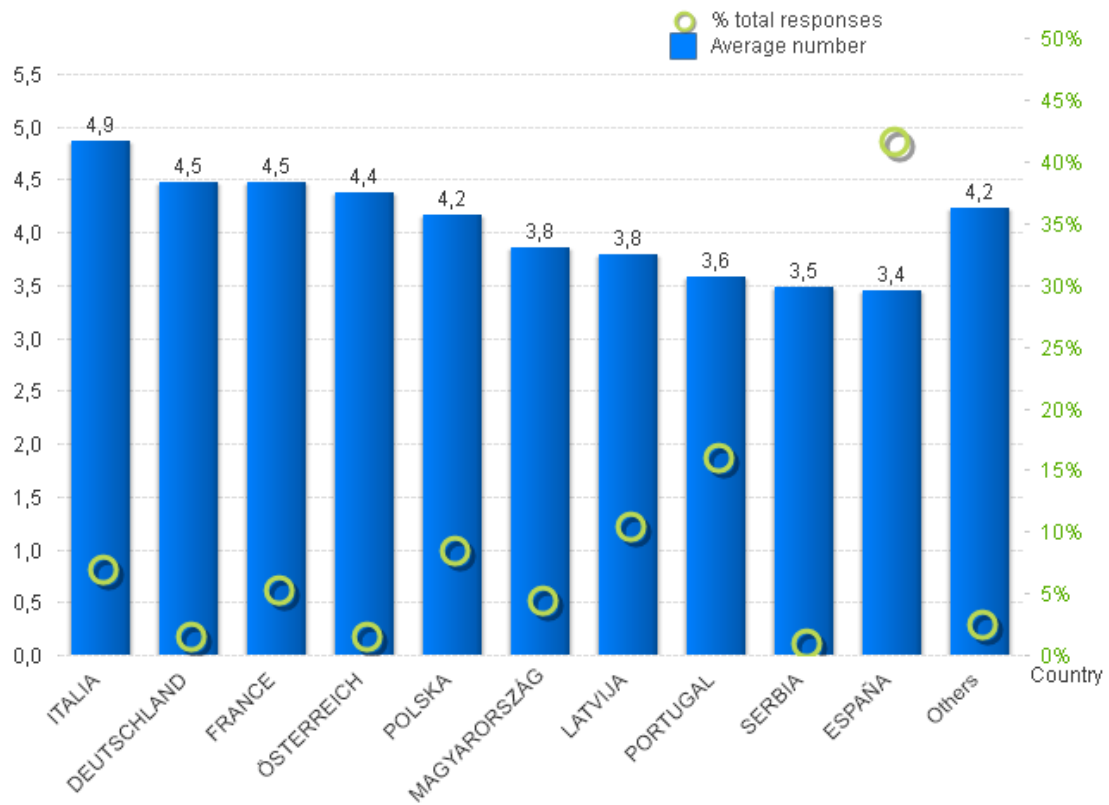


Most large families are headed by a female and a male partner, and the vast majority is married. The share of unmarried couples is not negligible in Latvia, Portugal, Hungary and France. The survey did not offer the response alternative of the large family being headed by only one adult, i.e. a single parent.



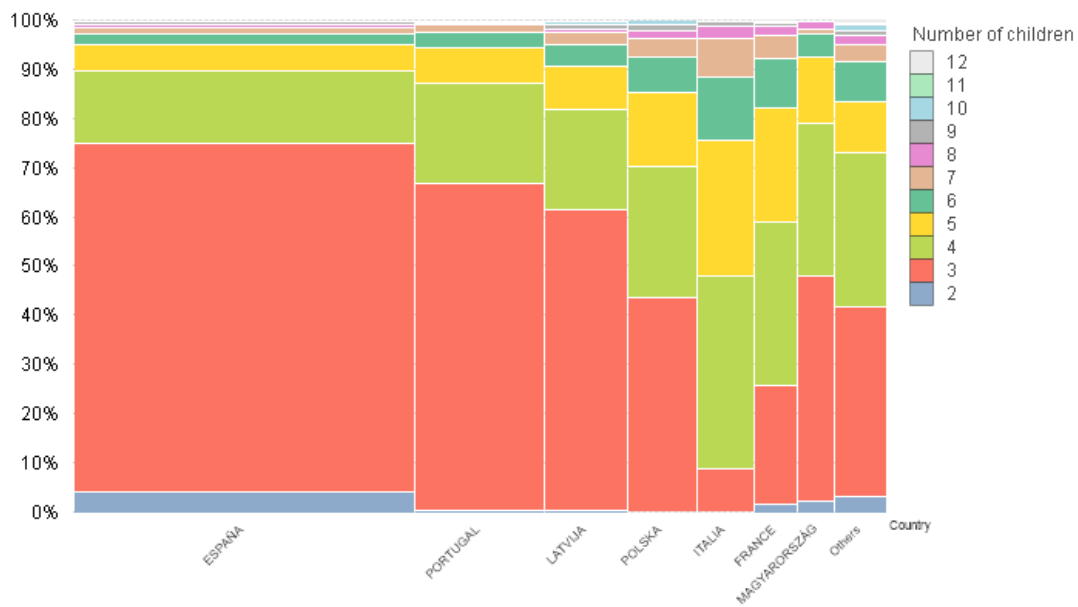
French and Italian parents are the oldest among the respondents compared to other countries. This also explains their children being oldest (see Figure in page 15). Latvian parents are the youngest among the respondents. In all the countries, mothers are younger than fathers, usually by two years, except for Italy (by three years), and France and Portugal (by one year).

Average number of own (biological or adopted) children, by country



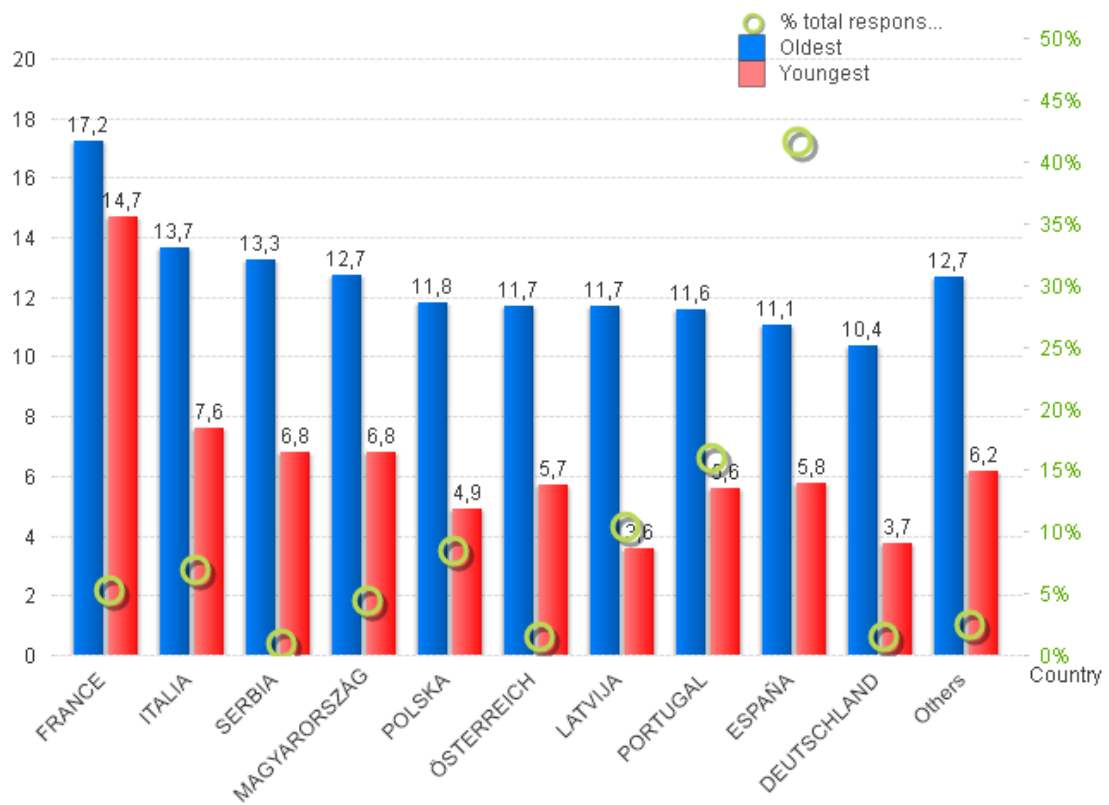
Italian and French families, with the highest average age of parent respondents (see Figure in page 12) also have the highest number of children, along with German families notwithstanding the rather low age of the parents in the latter. The smallest family sizes are seen for large families in Spain and Serbia.

Share of the number of own (biological or adopted) children per household, by country



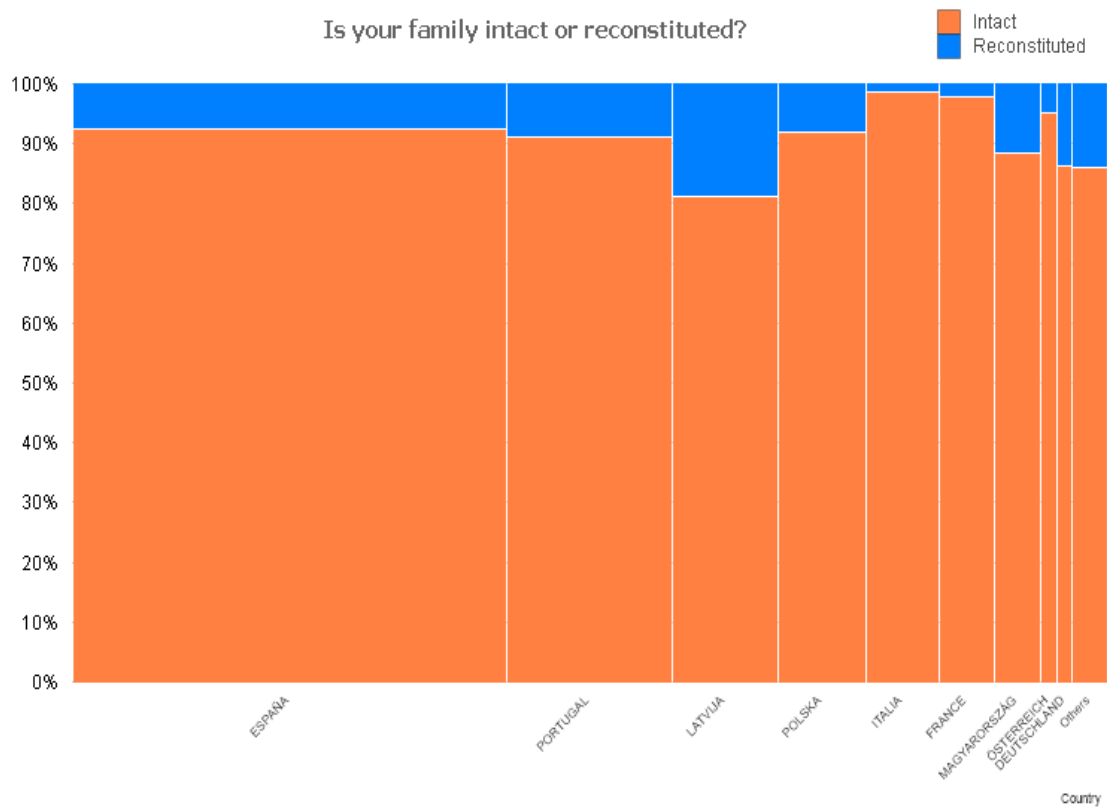
For some countries we find a small share of families with only two children: in Spain families with less than three children may qualify as large families in case one child has a (physical) disability. For France and Hungary, the relatively older age of children compared to other countries (see Figure in page 15), may indicate that the oldest child already moved out and the two younger siblings are in the parental household. Similar reasoning may apply to two-child families in countries in the 'Others' category. Italy and France exhibit the largest proportions of families with four or more children. In all other countries three-child families are the most common family size among large families, representing about half of all large families there.

Average age of own (biological or adopted) youngest and oldest children, by country

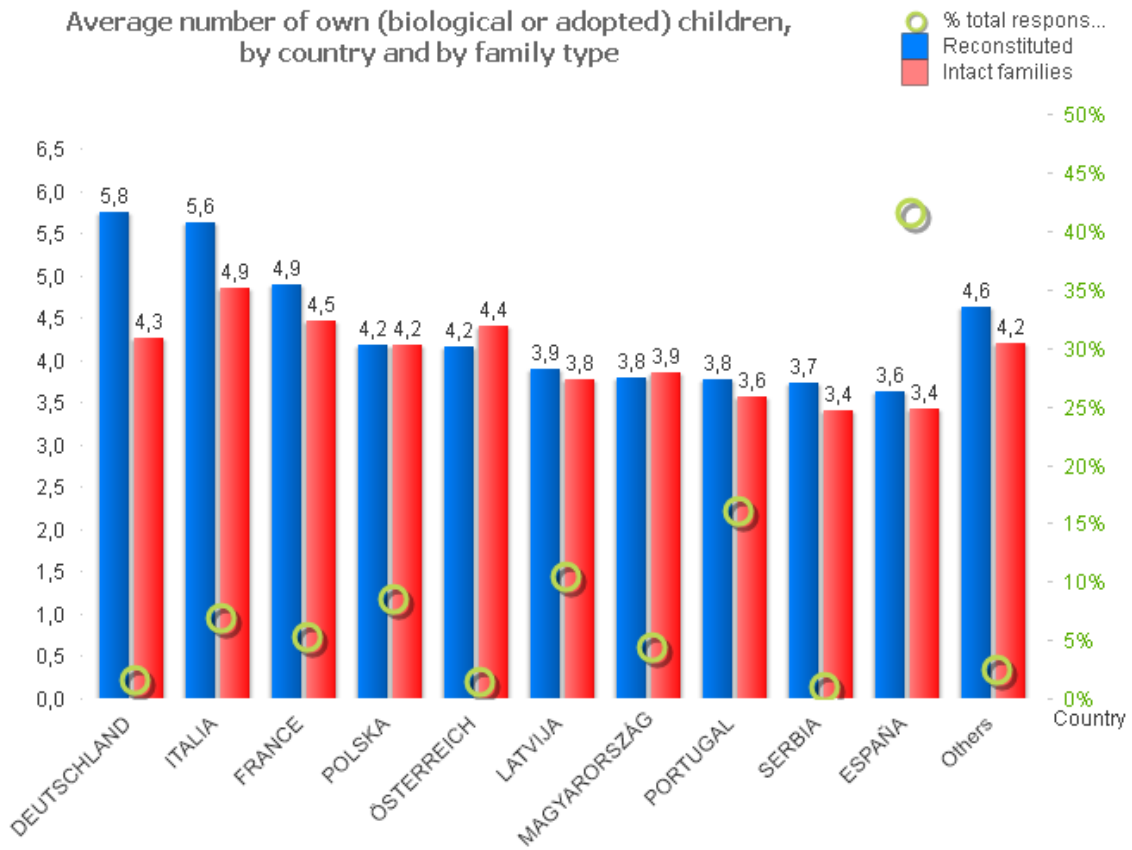


The highest average ages for both oldest and youngest children are seen for France and Italy, that is, countries with the oldest parents in large families (see Figure in page 12). Latvian and German parents, who are the youngest, also have youngest children with the lowest ages, but the pattern is less straightforward with respect to oldest children.

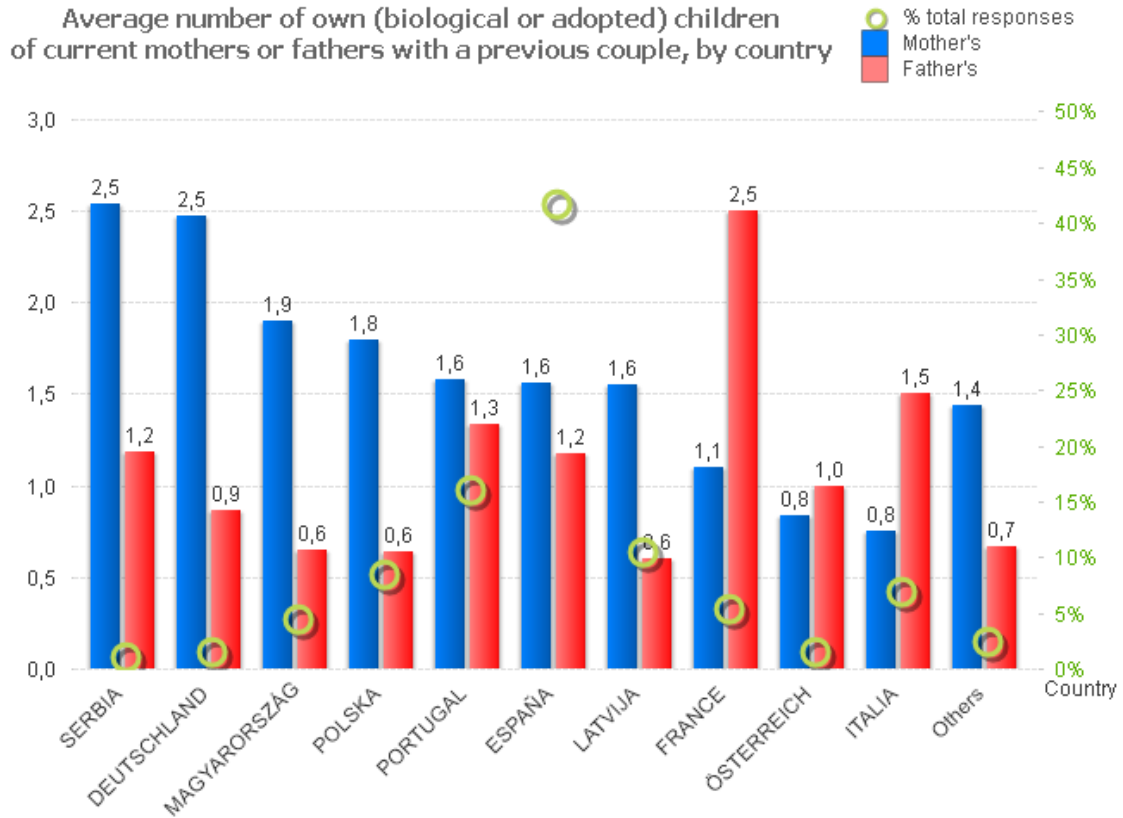




The figure reveals that the vast majority of large families who responded are intact families. The proportion of reconstituted families is extremely small among Italian and French families, unlike in Latvia, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Poland and Spain with above or around 10% of large families respondents.

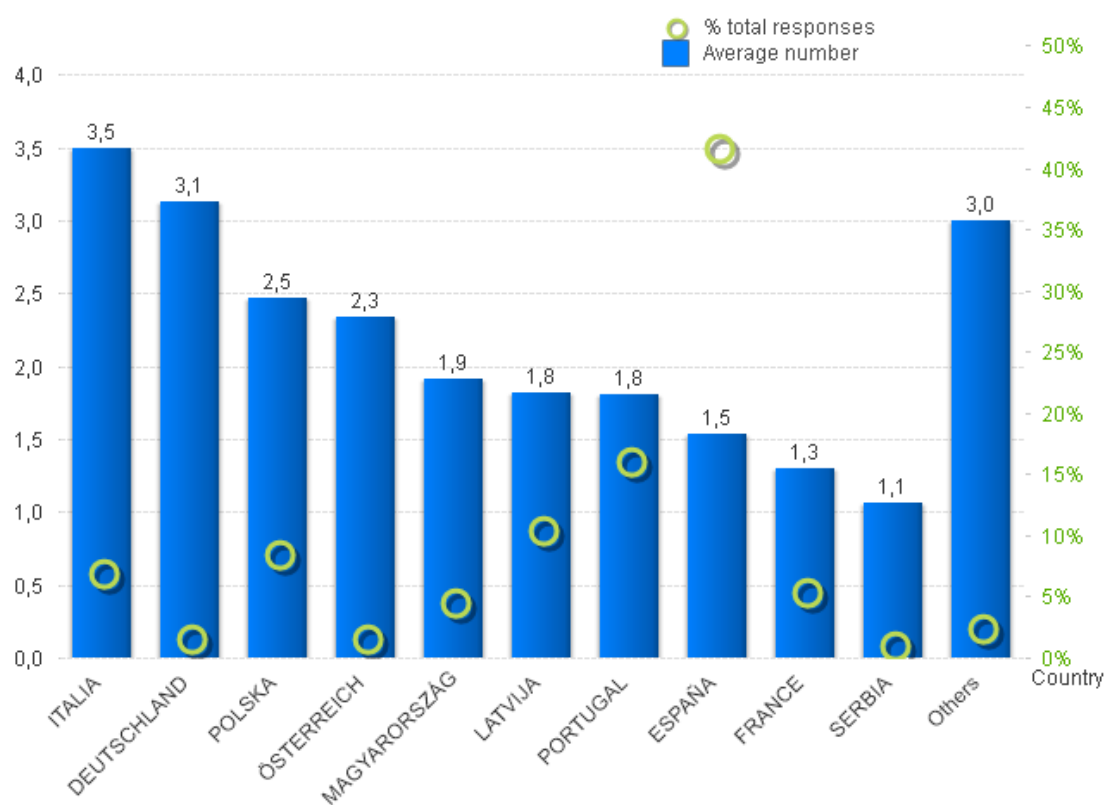


In Germany and Italy, the average number of children in reconstituted families is substantially higher than in intact families. The pattern is similar for France, Serbia, Portugal, Spain and Latvia where the difference is much smaller however. In Austria and Hungary intact families have somewhat higher number of children than do reconstituted families, and we find no difference by family type in Poland.

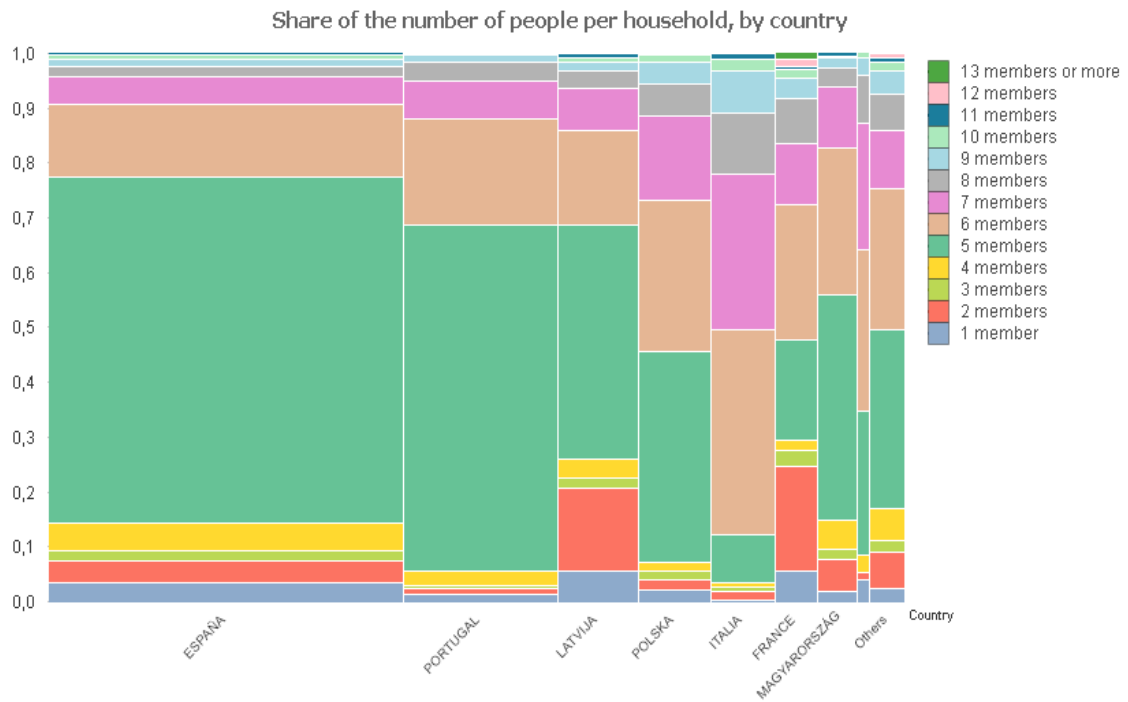


With respect to the average number of own children for the members of the couples in reconstituted families responding the survey, we find that in most countries mothers contribute with higher number of children than the fathers, except in France and Italy where the average number of children of fathers is about twice that of the mothers. In Portugal and Spain, the difference between mothers' and fathers' children is rather small, and even more so in Austria, where fathers bring slightly higher number of children to the new family than mothers do.

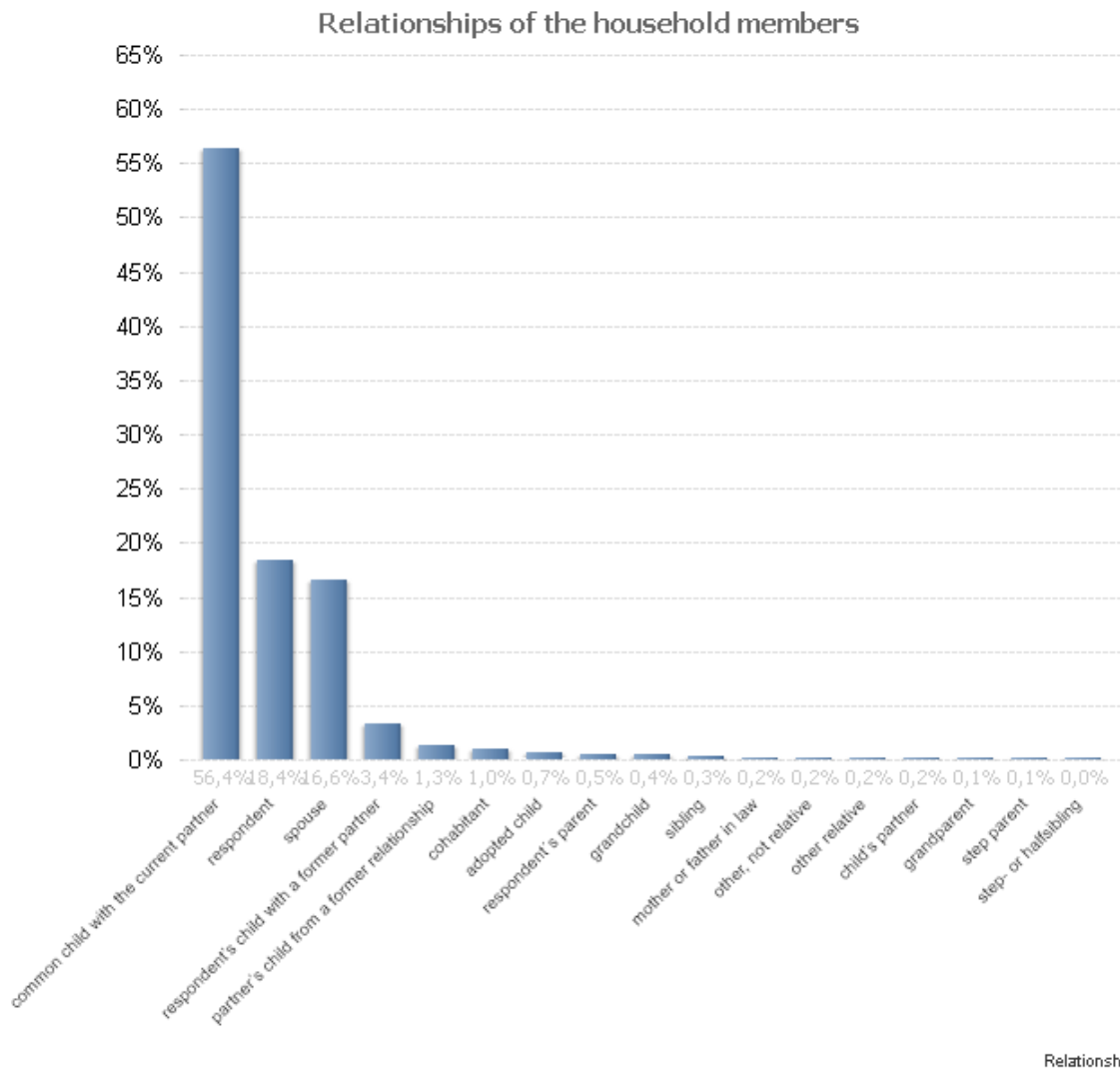
Average number of children in common, by country



The average number of joint children for couples in reconstituted families who answered the survey is highest among Italian and German families and lowest in Serbia, France and Spain.

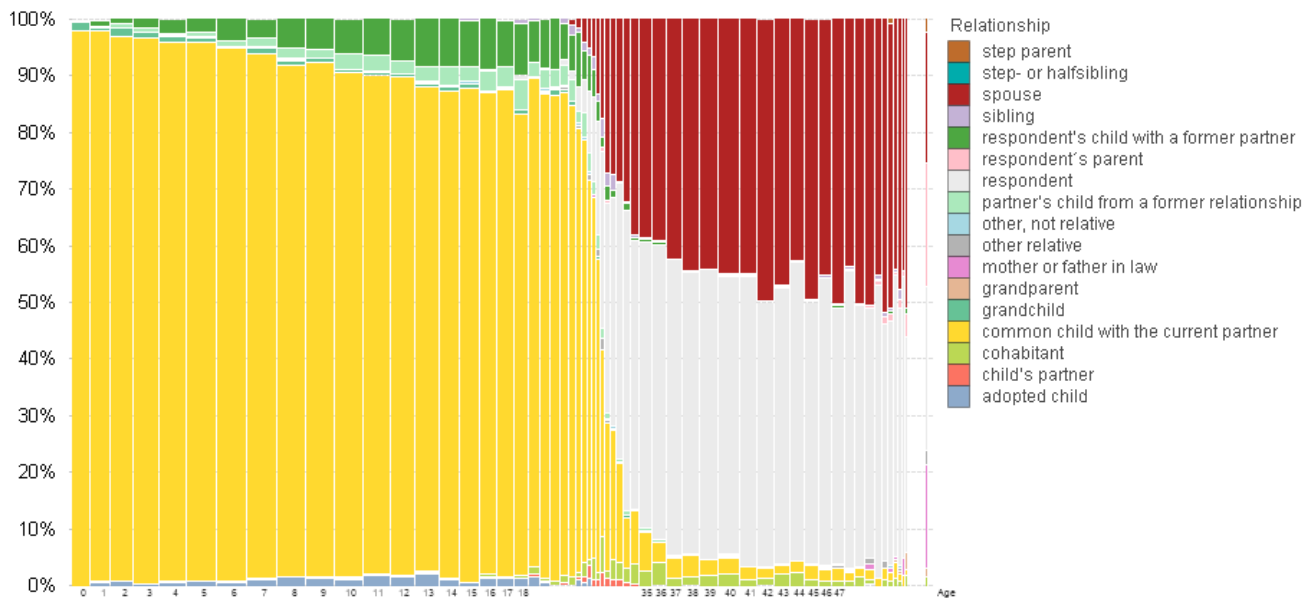


The five-member household is quite dominant across countries, especially in Portugal and Spain. Nevertheless, about half of large family households in France and Poland have five or less members, while in Spain, Latvia and Portugal this is true for around 70% of such households. In contrast in Italy, more than 80% of large family households include at least 6 members, as do about 65% in Austria (see the slim bar next to Hungary).

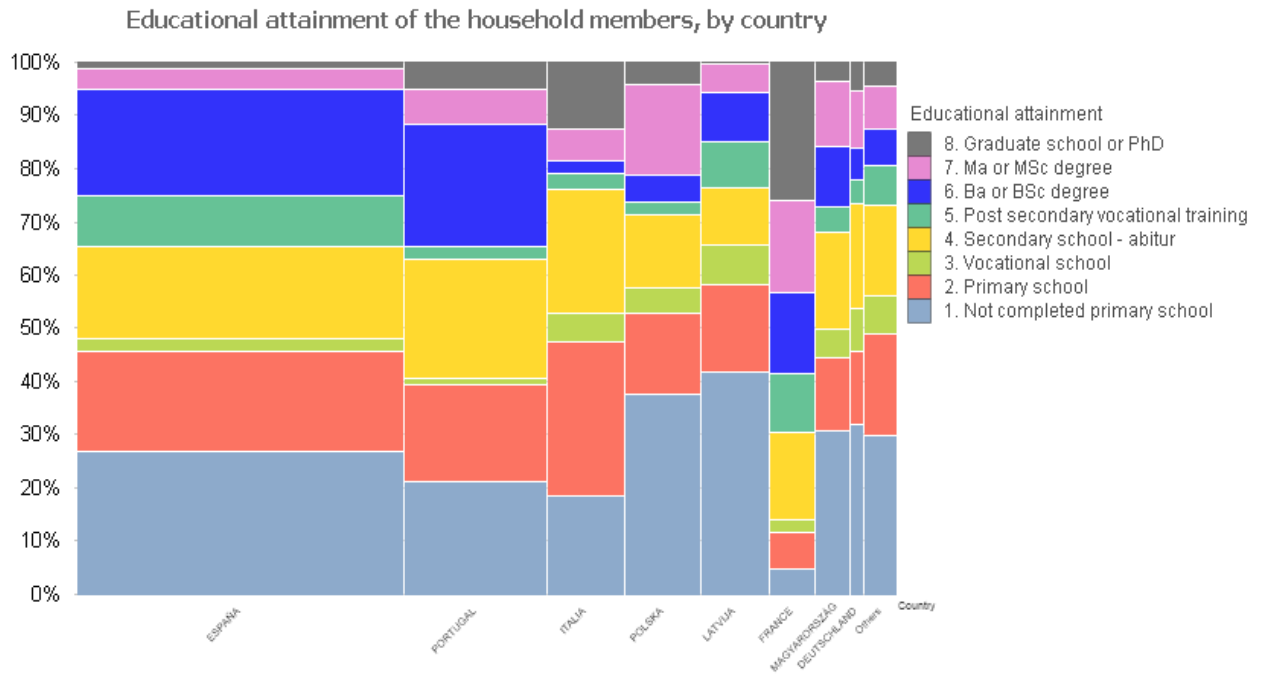


Not surprisingly over 55% of the members of all large family households are common children with the current partner. The respondent and her/his spouse or partner make around 17-18% each. The children of either the respondent or the partner from previous relationships are less than 5% together, and the share for other categories is less than 1-2% each.

Relationships of the household members, by age

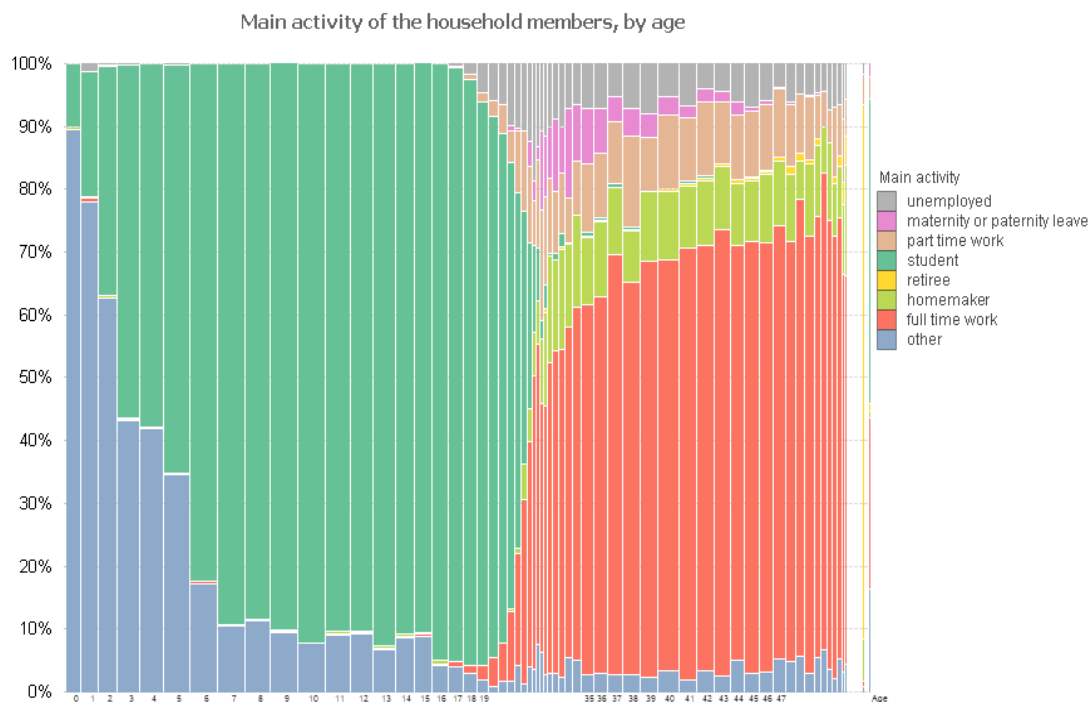


The high prevalence of joint children of couples as the main type of household members (in yellow) especially under the age of thirty is clearly seen in this figure. Respondents (in light grey) and spouses or partners (red) dominate the adult ages, from the early thirties onwards. The number of children from previous relationships (dark and light greens) tends to increase with increasing age. Other household members types are rather small.

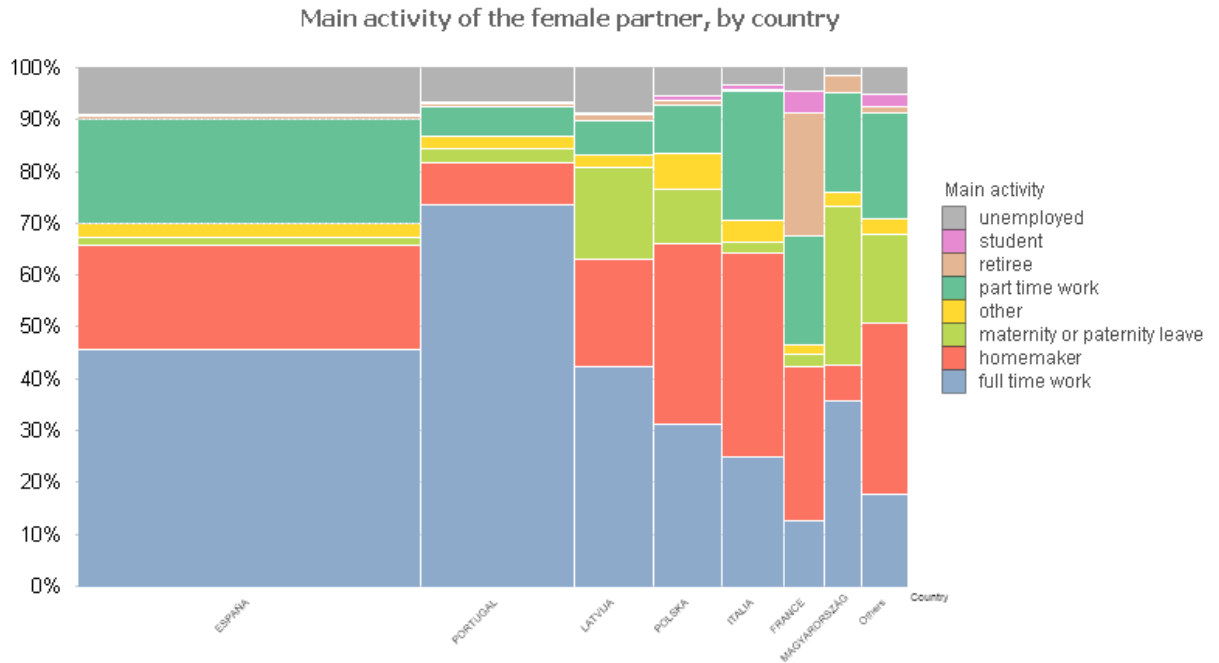


French large families stand out with the highest share of members with graduate university degrees, which may be partly related to the parents, on average, being older there than in the other countries, hence could acquire a higher level of education. This may apply also to the children as French children on average were shown to be older than children in the other countries. In any case, France is well-known for third- and higher-order births being common among the highly educated, unlike in many other countries, often explained by French family policies.

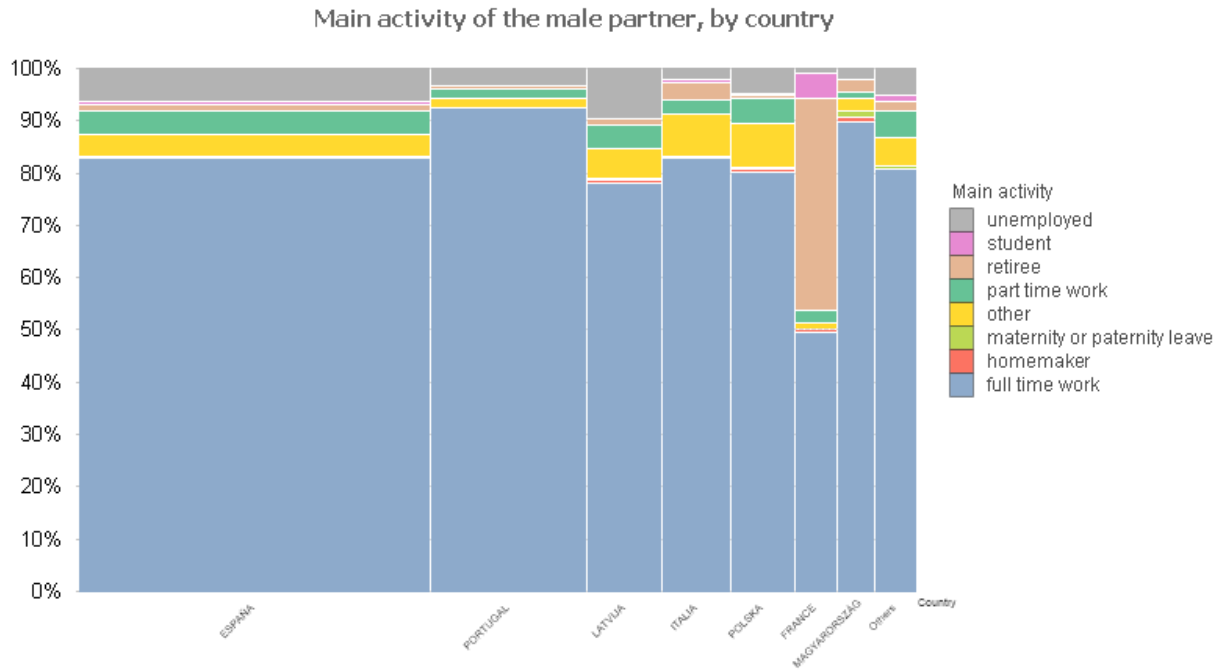




Enrollment in formal childcare and/or school varies across countries with respect to age, which can be seen in the varying proportion of 'other' and 'student' categories for the ages up to 7 years. Thereafter up to ages of early-/mid-twenties, most young people are students. For more mature ages, full-time work is the dominant activity type. The shares of part-time workers and homemakers are rather similar in these adult ages, while the proportion of unemployed is diminishing by age 30. Parental leave is most often used up to ages of mid-30s which are the main childbearing ages, and hardly ever from ages of mid-40s and later.

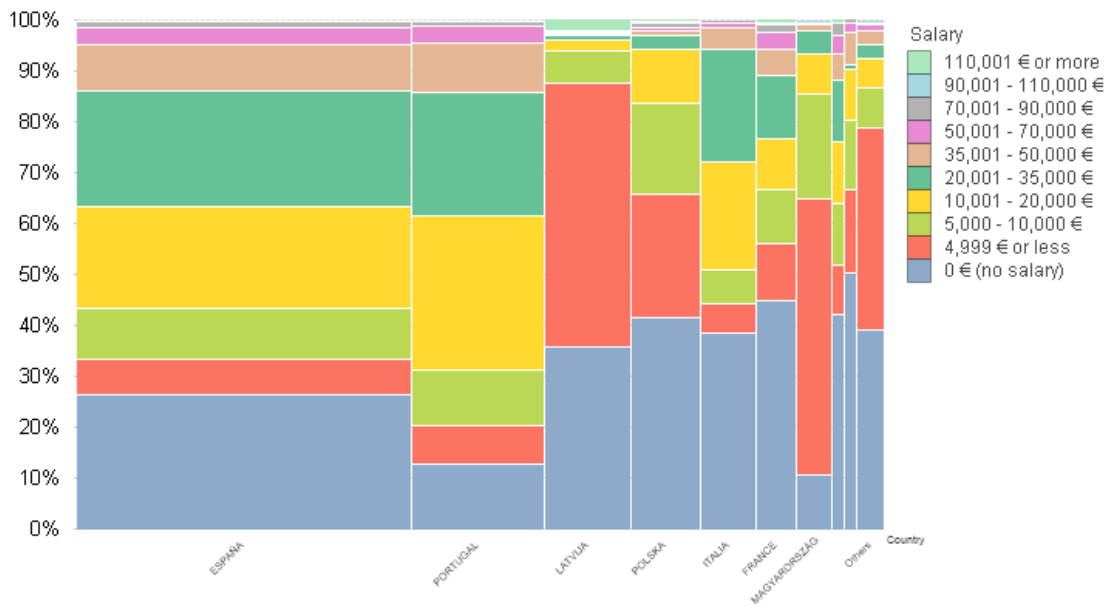


Portuguese large families have a remarkably high proportion of mothers with a full time job (70%), compared to around 40% in Spain, Latvia and Hungary, and 30% or less in Poland and Italy. In France, only about one-tenth of mothers in large families, who responded the survey, work full time. In the three latter countries, one-fifth of mothers are homemakers, and nearly as many in Spain and Latvia. The share of this category is below 10% in Portugal and Hungary. Part-time work is quite common (around 20%) among mothers in large families respondents in Italy, Spain, France and Hungary, but much less so in Poland, Portugal and Latvia where it applies to less than 10% of the mothers.



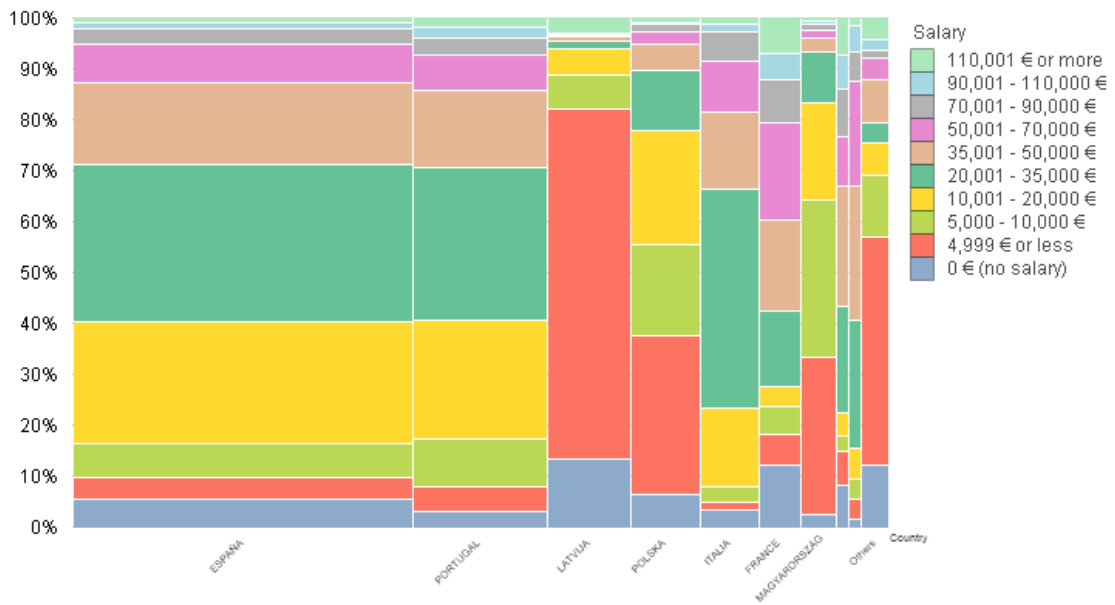
Most large families show a traditional pattern, with full-time work for the male partner in about 80% of families in all countries but France, where nearly half of the male household heads are retirees. The pattern of male activity is in sharp contrast with the previous figure with mothers exhibiting a variety of activities (full-time as well as part-time work, homemaking, etc.).

Share of salary ranges of the mothers, by country

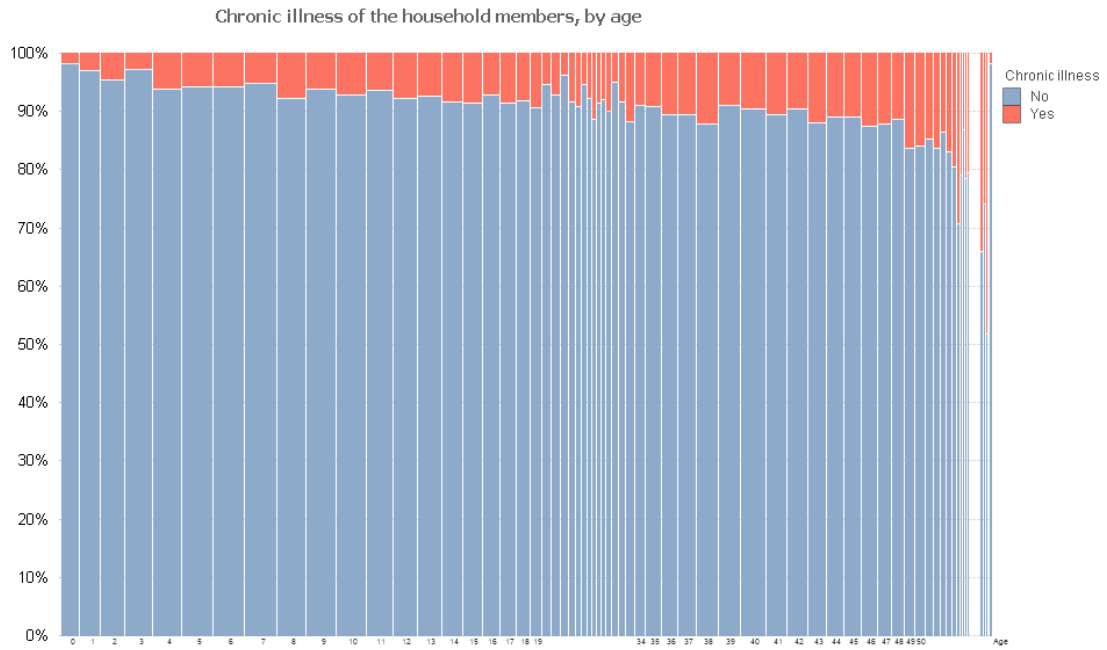


Portugal and Hungary show the lowest proportion of mothers who do not have own earnings. Except for Spain and Portugal, a sizeable share of mothers (40% or more) earns less than 5,000€ a year across countries (the two thin bars next to Hungary are Germany and Austria). In contrast, about two-thirds or more earn more than 5,000€ in Portugal and Spain. In Latvia, Poland, Hungary and Austria, less than one-third of mothers earn at least 5,000€ a year.

Share of salary ranges of the fathers, by country

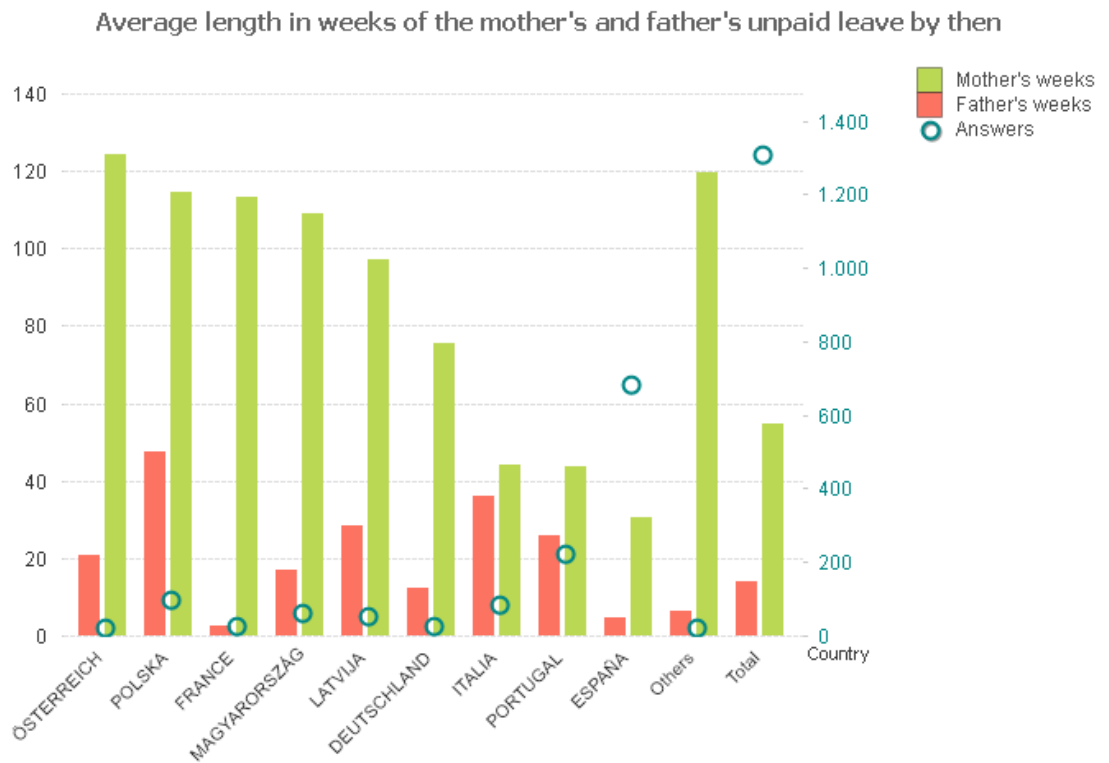


The proportion of large family fathers without a salary is rather small, in contrast to the mothers (see Figure in page 27). For Latvia however, we find that more than 80% of large family parents (mothers as well as fathers) earn less than 5,000€ a year. In contrast, in six countries, namely Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Germany and Austria at least 60% of fathers earn over 20,000€ a year. In the three West-European countries (France, Germany and Austria), about one-third of fathers have annual earnings of more than 50,000€.



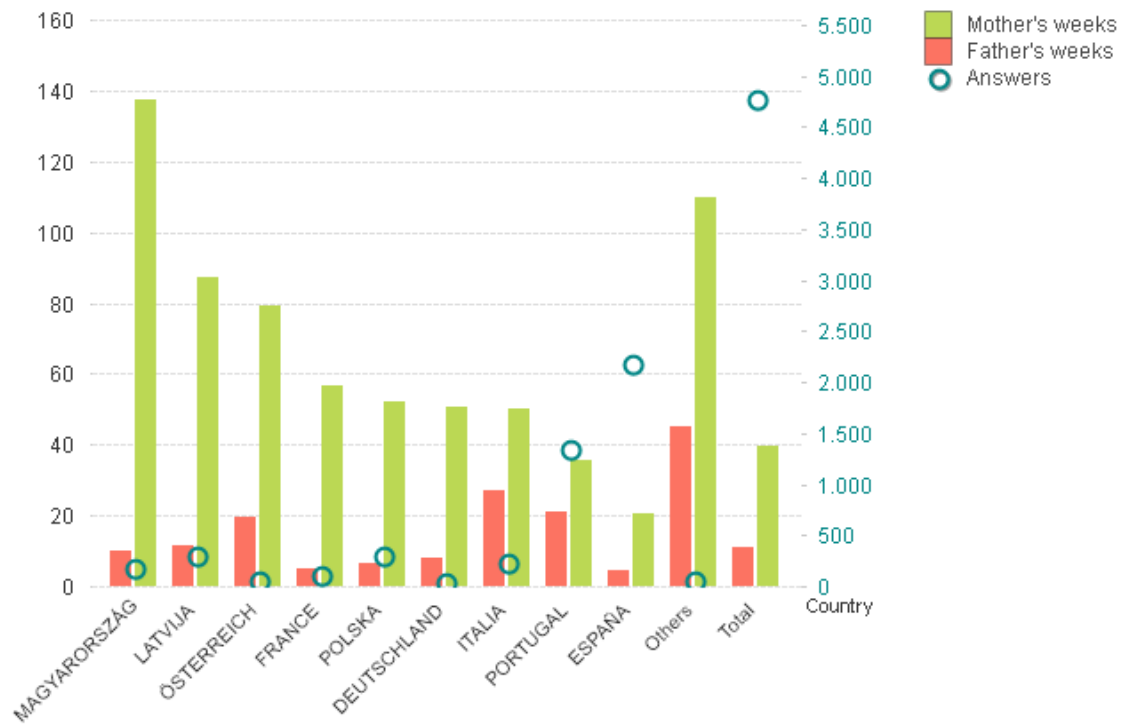
Not surprisingly, the proportion of household members with a chronic illness increases with age, although the share of minors with such conditions is remarkable.

2) Job conditions of the couple when they decided to have their third child:



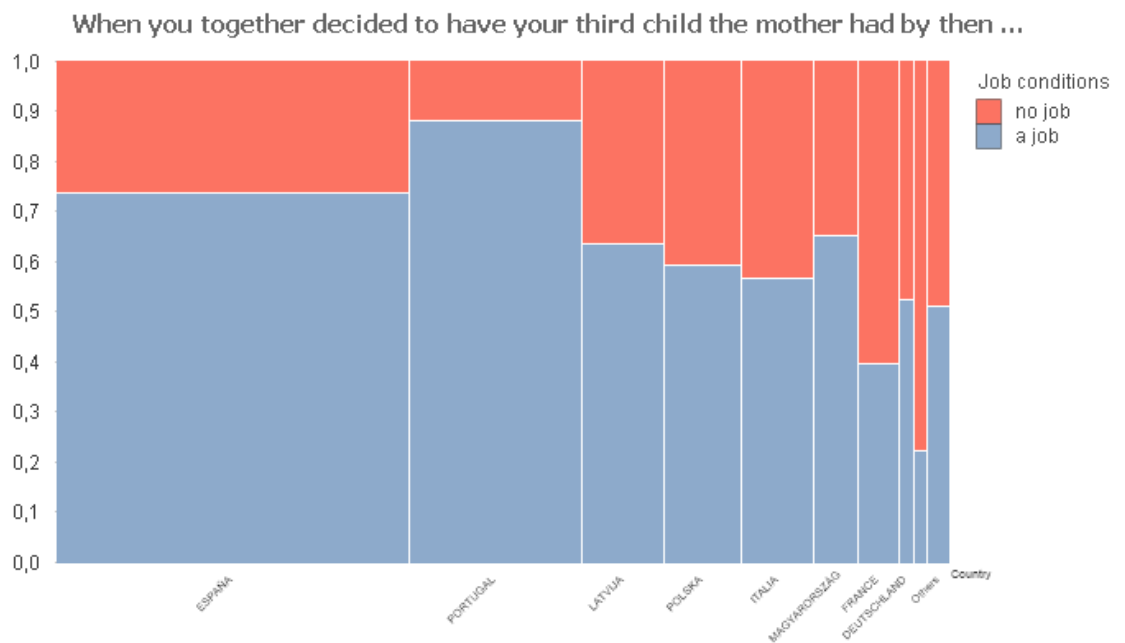
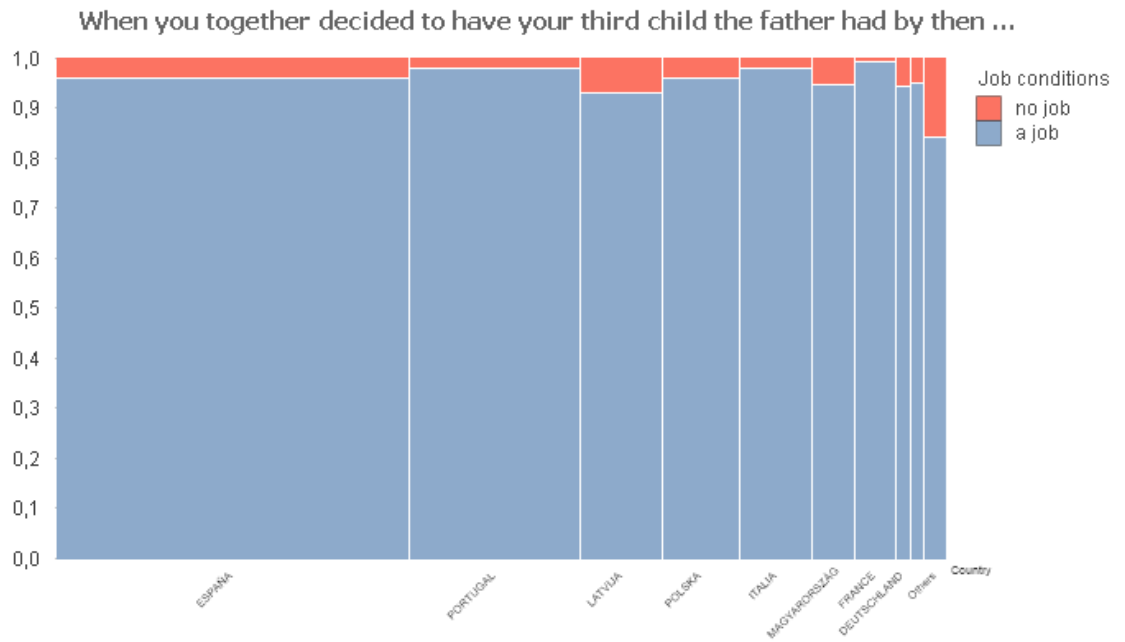
In all countries, mothers took more unpaid leave than their male partners by the time the couple decided to have their third child, with the smallest gender difference seen for Italy and Portugal, and the largest in France. The number of weeks available and used varies greatly across countries, with Southern European countries offering the shortest (unpaid) leaves. On average mothers in large families took 58 weeks while fathers used 17 weeks.

Average length in weeks of the mother's and father's paid leave by then

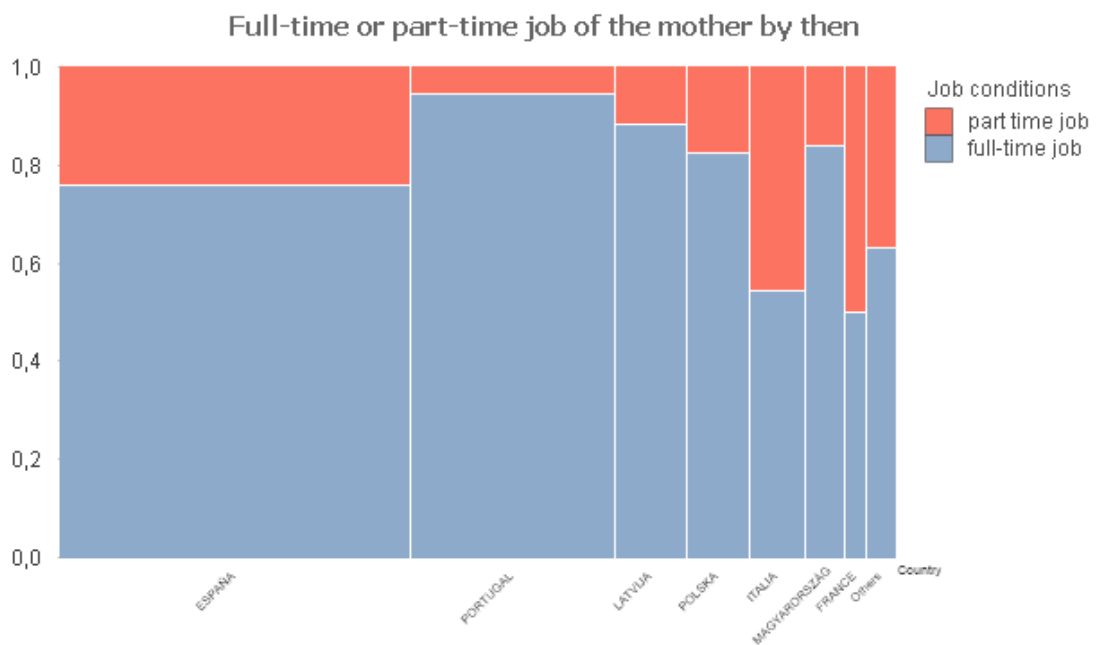
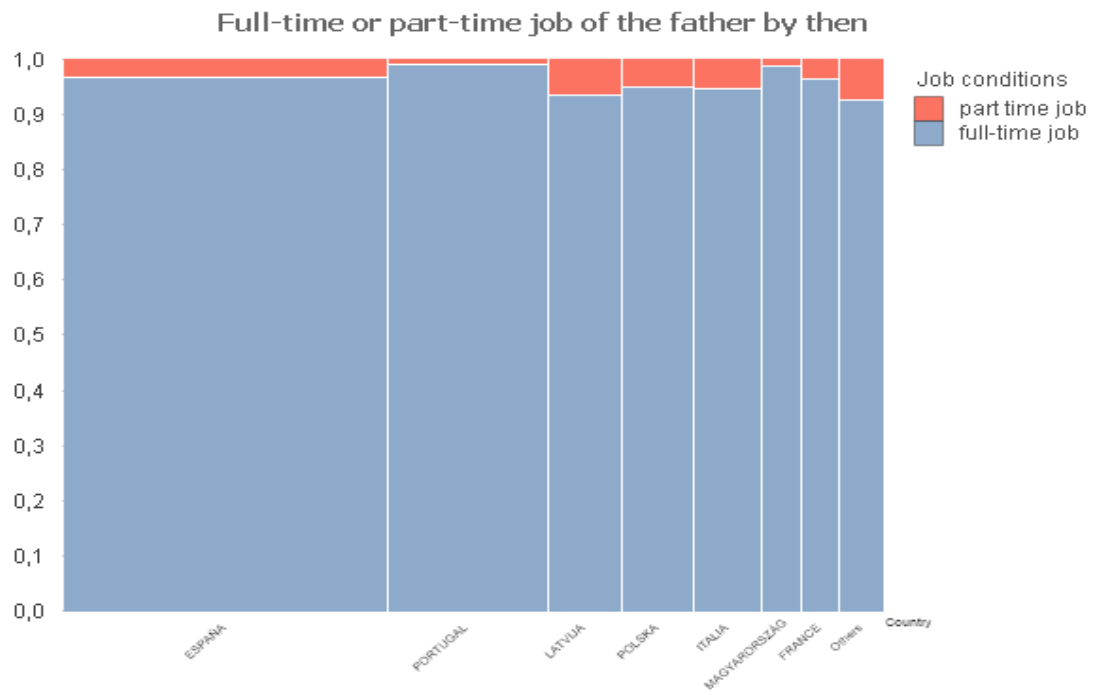


Gender differences are pronounced also with respect to paid leaves, with fathers using rather limited number of weeks unlike mothers. The difference is largest in Hungary, and smallest in the Southern European countries. The paid leaves used are generally shorter than the unpaid ones, except for Hungary.



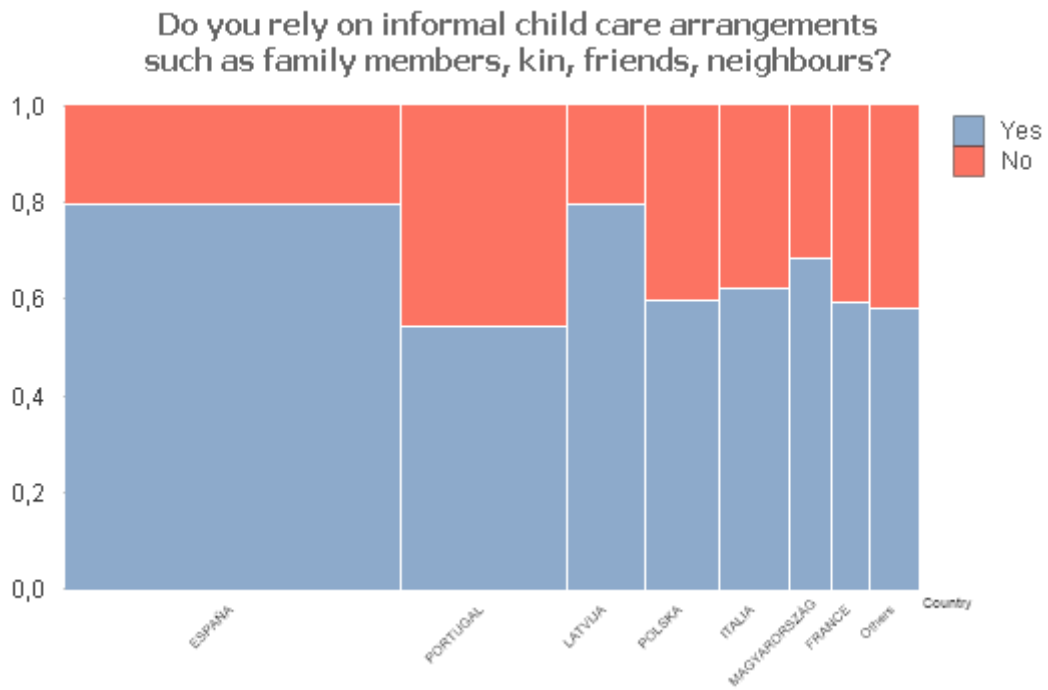


In most countries when the parents decided to have their third child, about 95% of the fathers had a job but only 60% of the mothers, except in Portugal and Spain with around 25 and 10% of homemaker mothers, respectively. France and Austria exhibit the largest percentages of homemaker mothers, with 60% and 75%.

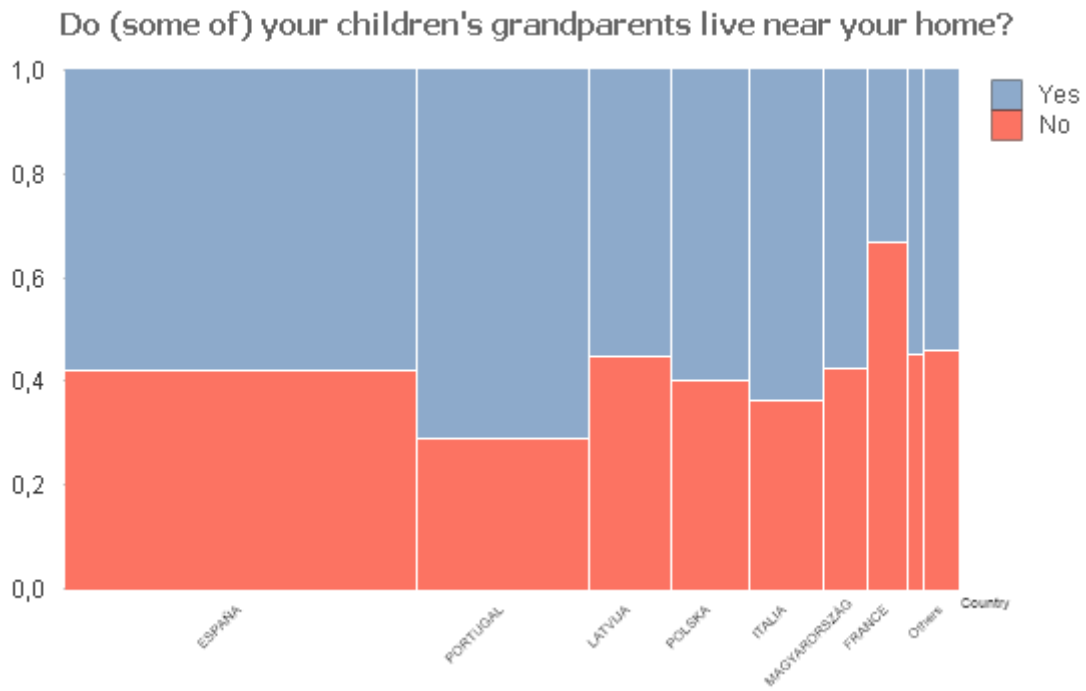


Among those with a job, about 95% of the fathers worked full-time. We find greater country differences among the mothers, from about 55% of full-time workers in Italy and France to around 95% in Portugal.

3) Residence-related and family and friends factors:

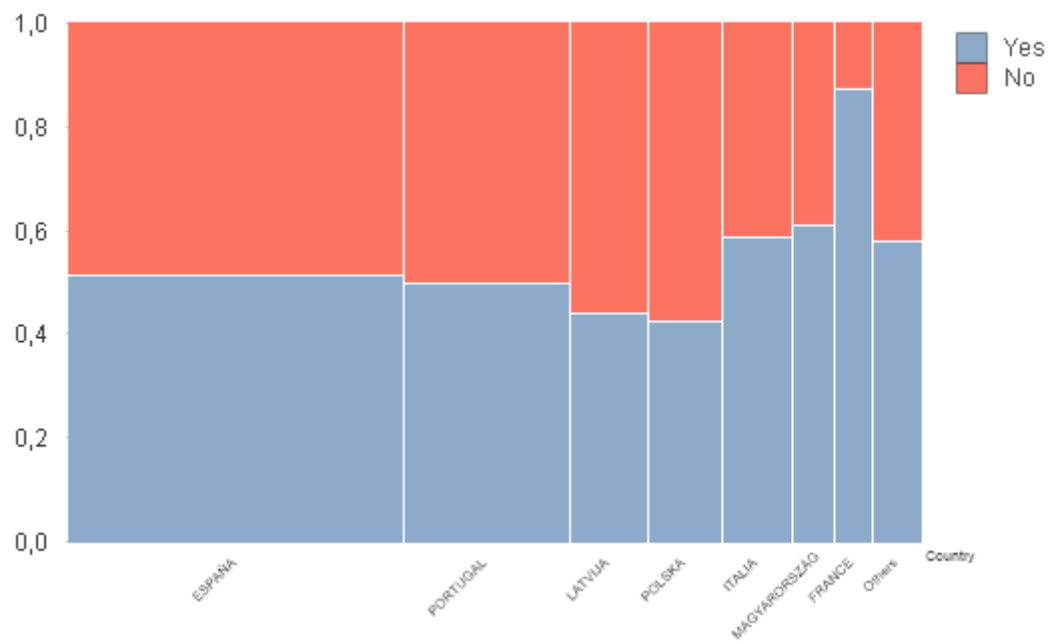


About 80% of large families in Spain and Latvia tend to rely on informal child care arrangements. In other countries, around 60% of large families do so. Hence, the use of informal child care is substantial among large families across Europe.

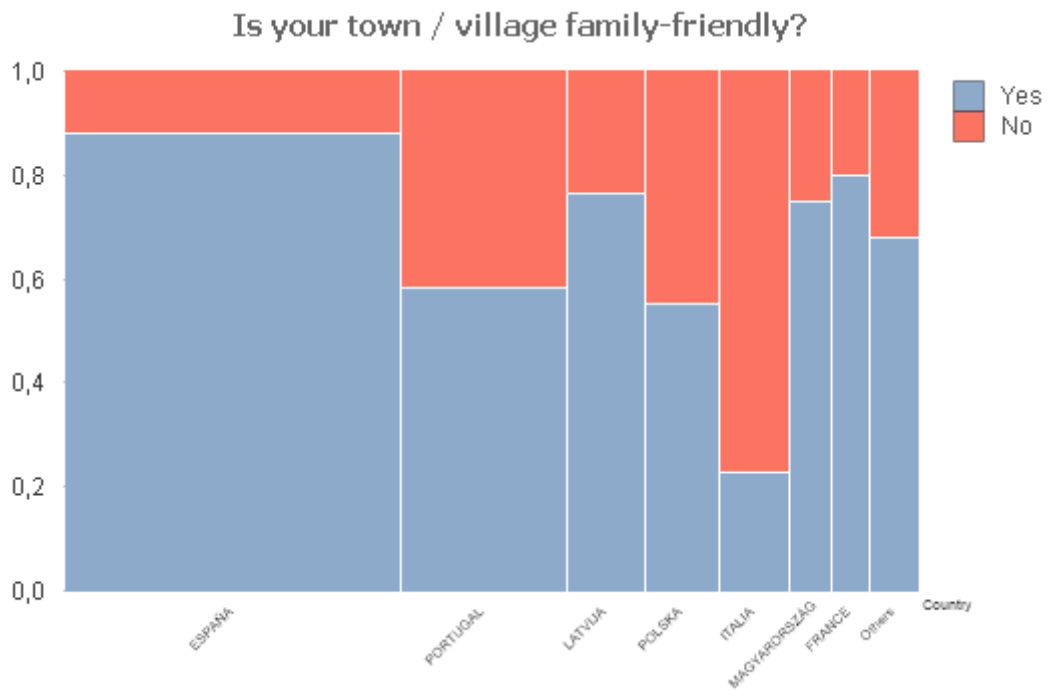


Grandparents are often the main providers of informal childcare. Hence whether they live nearby their children and grandchildren is of key importance for their ability to help with child care. Around 60% of large families in the survey had the grandparents living nearby, except for France where only one-third of large family respondents enjoyed such situation.

### Do other large families with whom you socialize live near your home?



Around half of large families respondents have other large families with whom they socialize, living nearby. This applies to slightly higher share in Italy and Hungary (about 60%). In France, about 90% of families enjoy such situation.



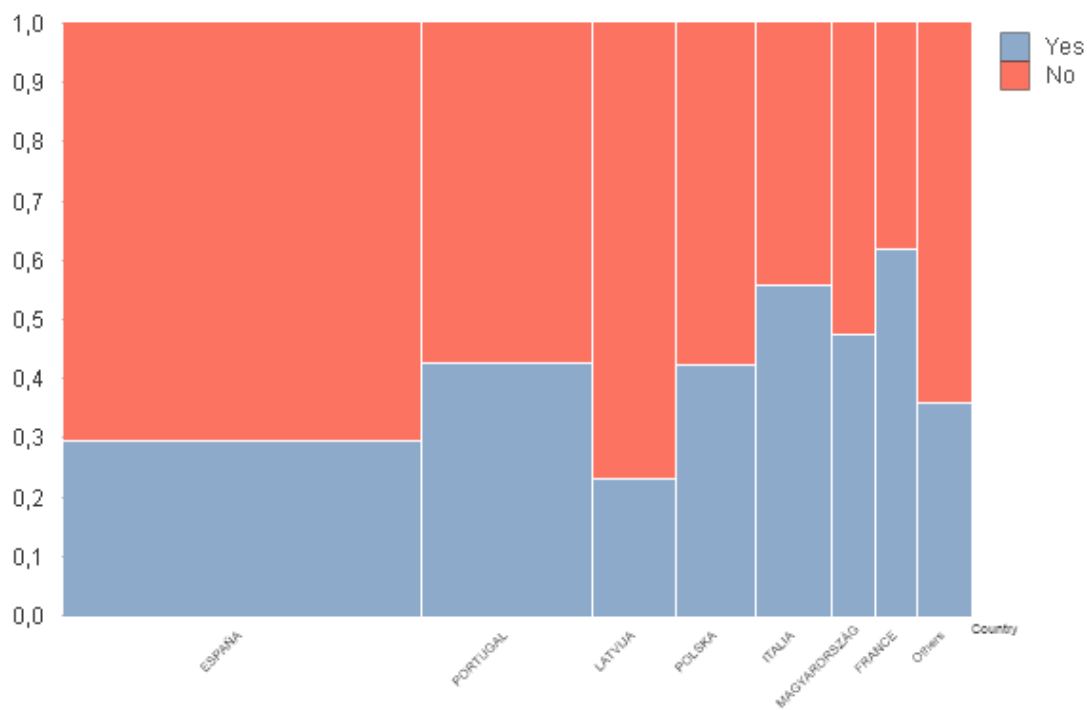
The majority of large families consider their town of residence as family-friendly, especially in Spain, Latvia, Hungary and France. In contrast in Italy, only about one-fifth of large family respondents had such positive opinion.

Average number of the mother's and father's sisters and brothers



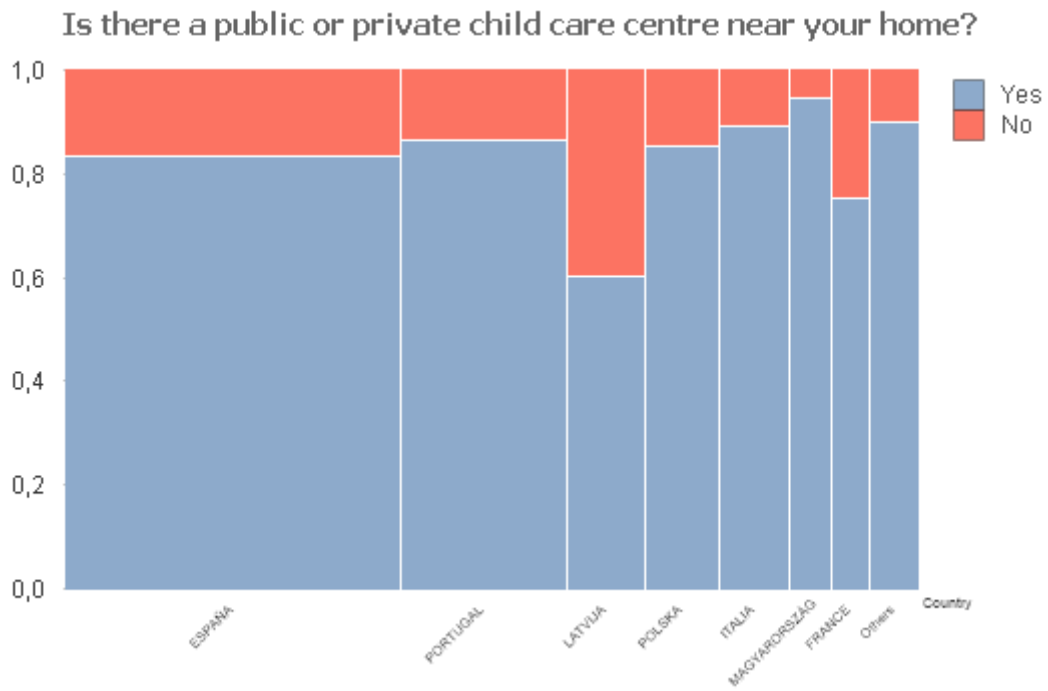
Most large families parents themselves, mothers and fathers alike, come from large families with at least three children. However, sibship size is somewhat lower for Ukrainian and Serbian parents.

(If applicable) Have the large families of your parents or of your friends inspired you both to have a large family?



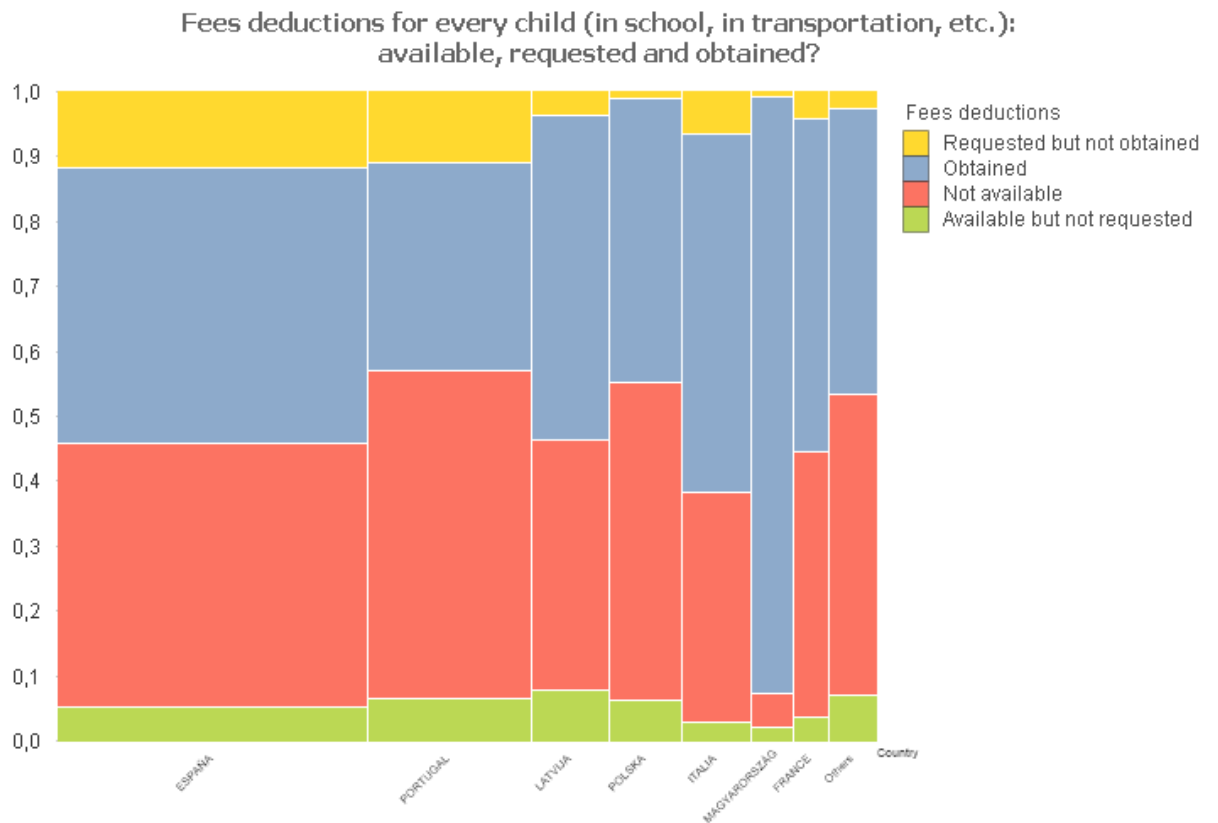
The example of other large families, either the family of origin or of friends, seems to have mattered little for the parents respondents' decisions to raise a large family, except for France and Italy, where more than half of the large families had such influence.





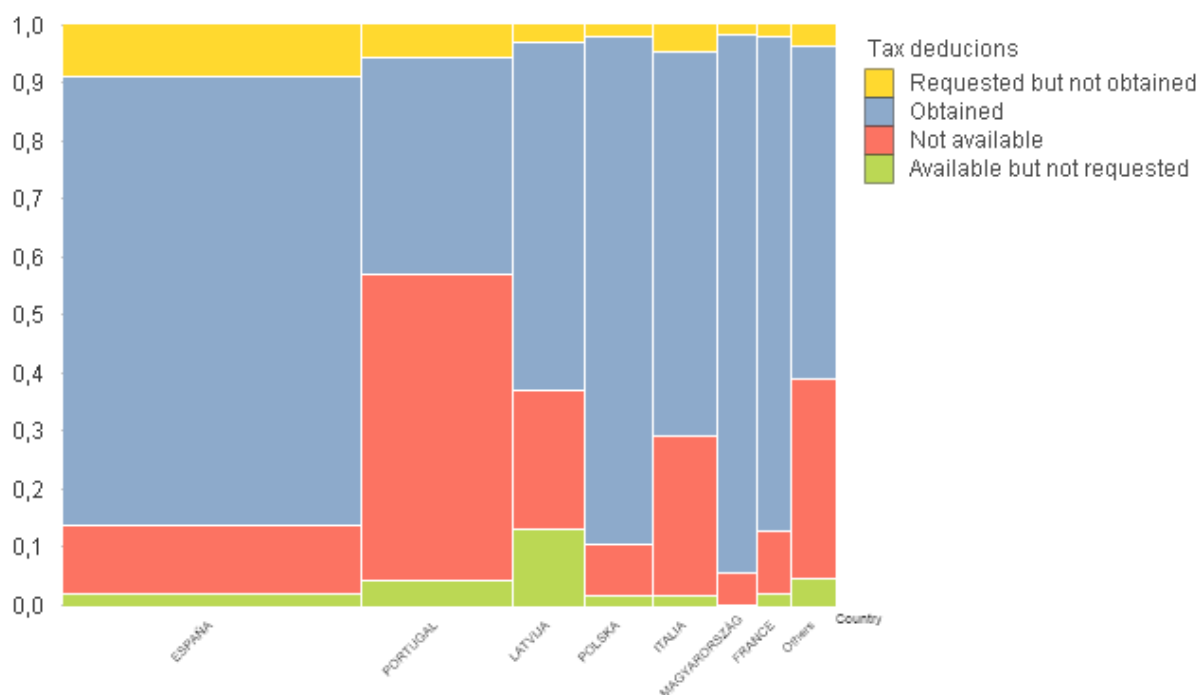
In most countries at least 80% of large families have a child care center near their home, except for Latvia and France where this applies to 60 and 70% of large families respondents, respectively.

4) Governments help received any time by the family:

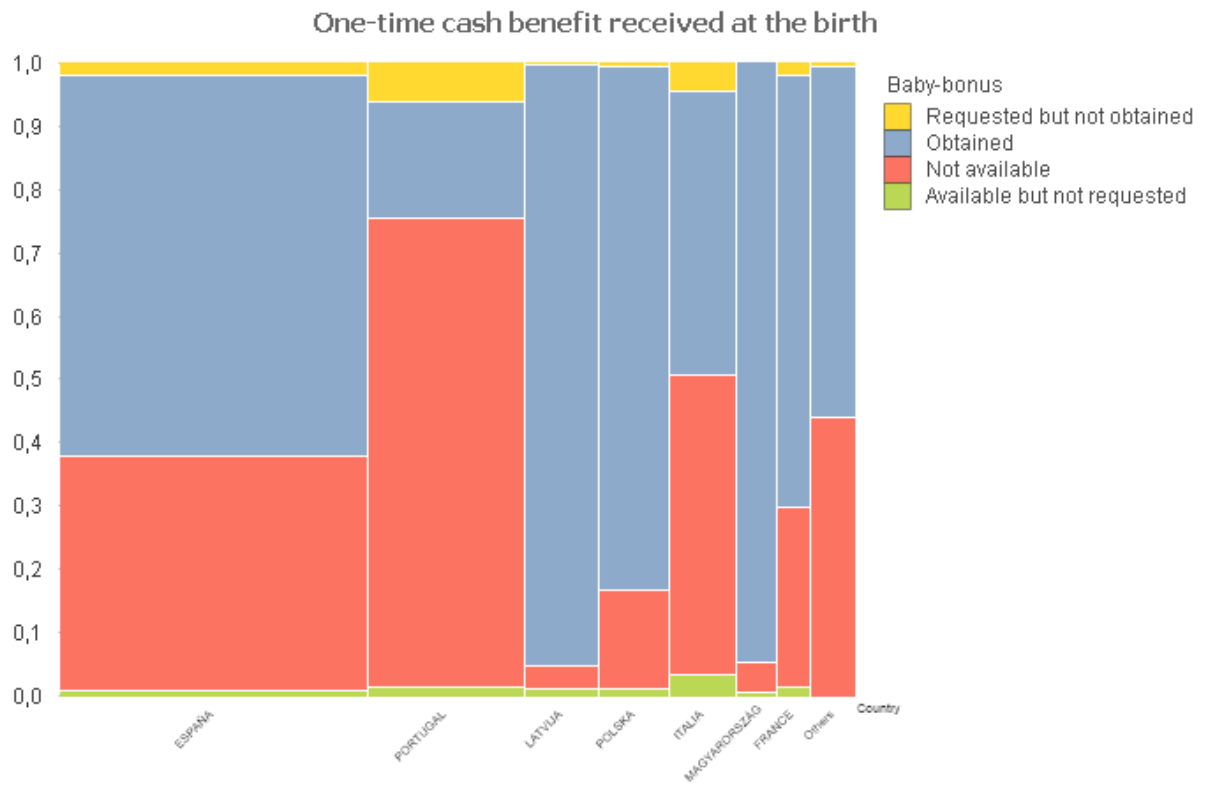


Hungary is the country where nearly all large families respondents (over 90%) benefited from fees deductions (any time) for every child in the family. In other countries, about 40% of large families respondents reported that fees deductions were not available, and another 40% or so of families obtained deductions.

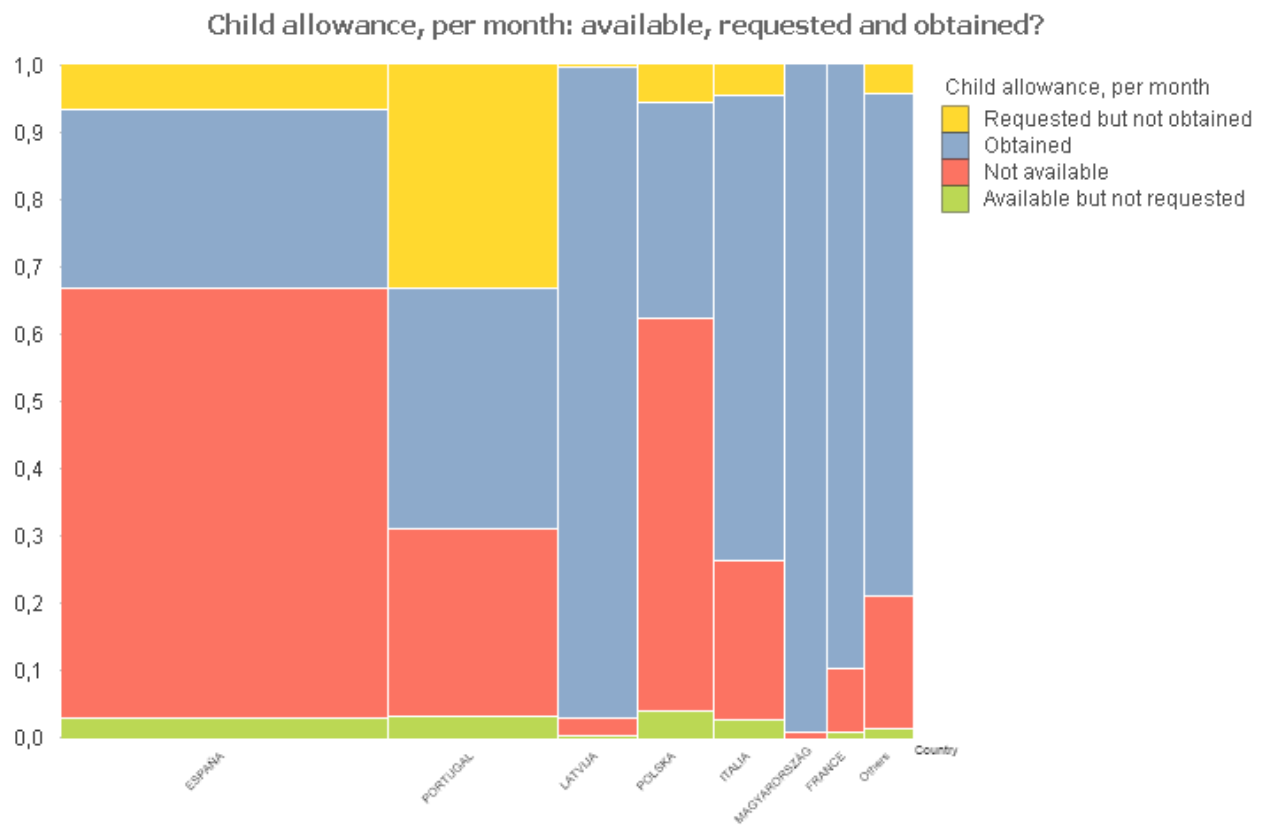
Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes)



About 80% of large families got tax deductions for every child in Hungary, Poland and France, somewhat lower share in Spain, and about 60% in Italy. In Portugal only about one-third of large families respondents benefited from such tax deductions, while in Latvia half of these families did.

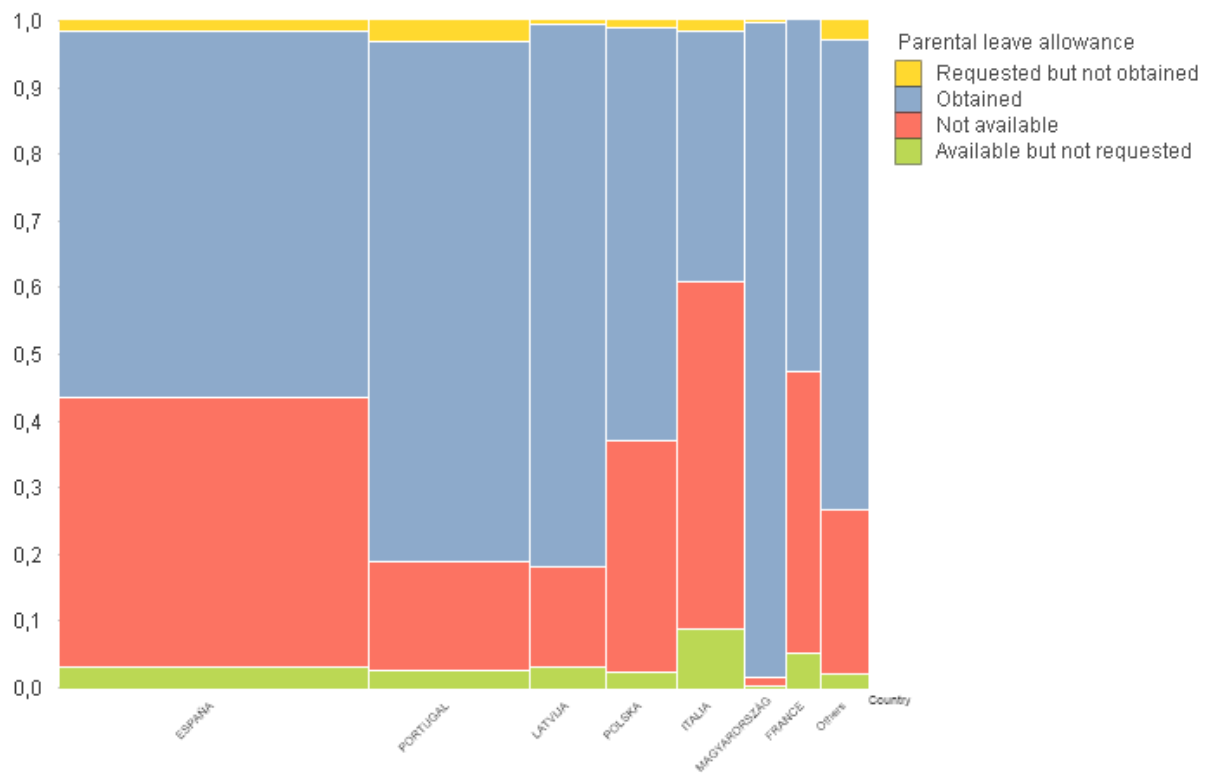


One-time cash benefits at the birth of a child were received by nearly all large families respondents in Hungary and Latvia, about 80% in Poland and 70% in France. Three quarter of these families reported such benefit not being available in Portugal, compared to nearly half of respondents in Italy and around 40% in Spain.



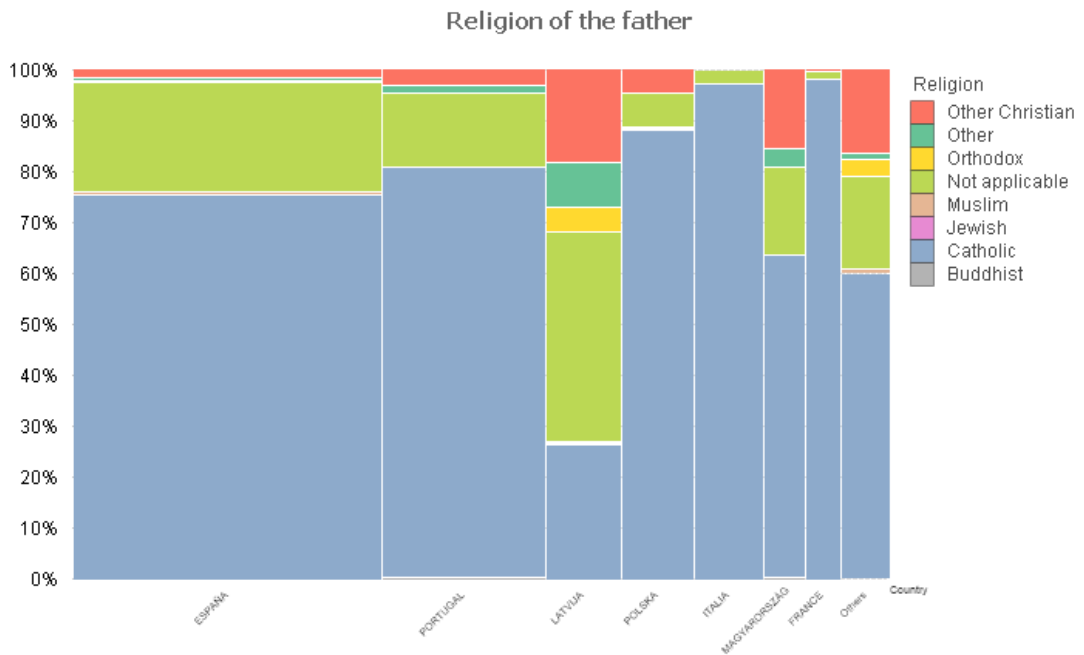
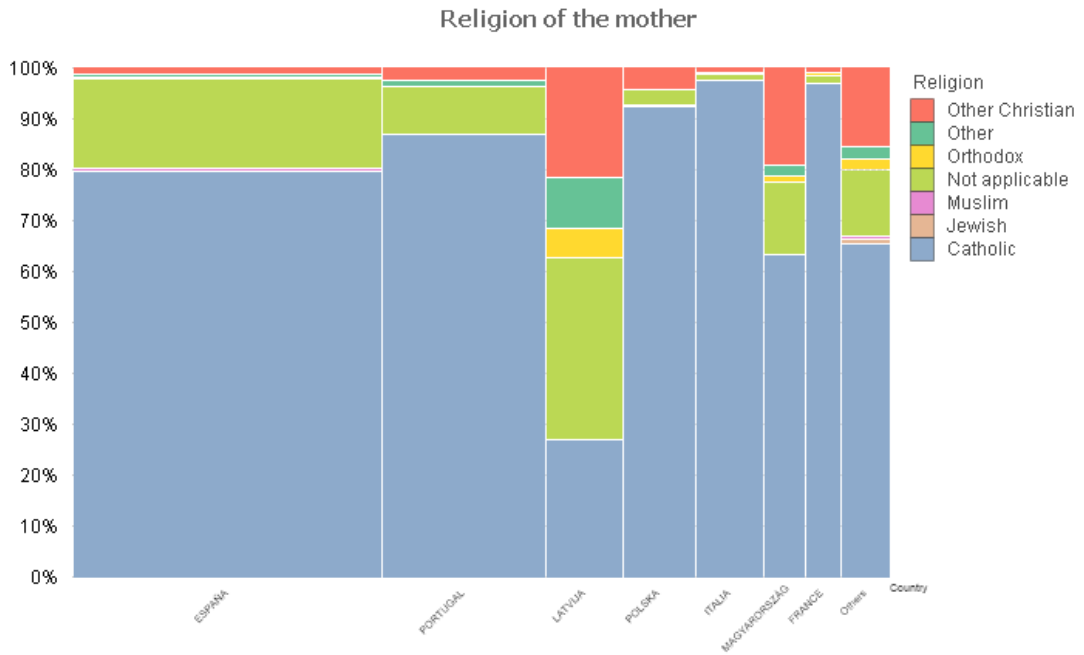
Nearly all large families respondents received child allowance in Hungary and Latvia, and 90% in France. Two-thirds of families benefited from this measure in Italy, but only one-third in Poland and Spain, while nearly 40% in Portugal.

Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave:  
available, requested and obtained?

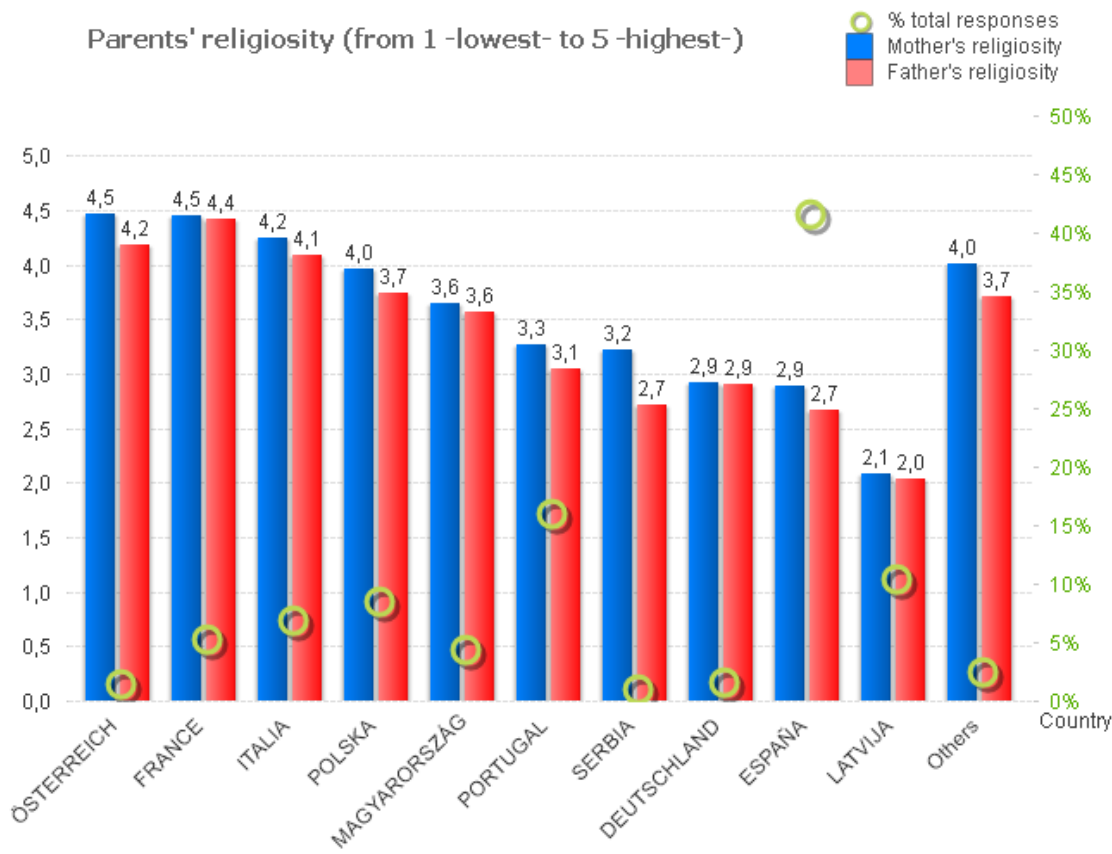


Paid parental leaves were available to nearly all families in Hungary, and only about one-fifth lacked such benefit in Portugal and Latvia. The measure was not available for around 40% of large families respondents in France, Spain and Poland and for half of them in Italy.

5) Religion and religiosity:



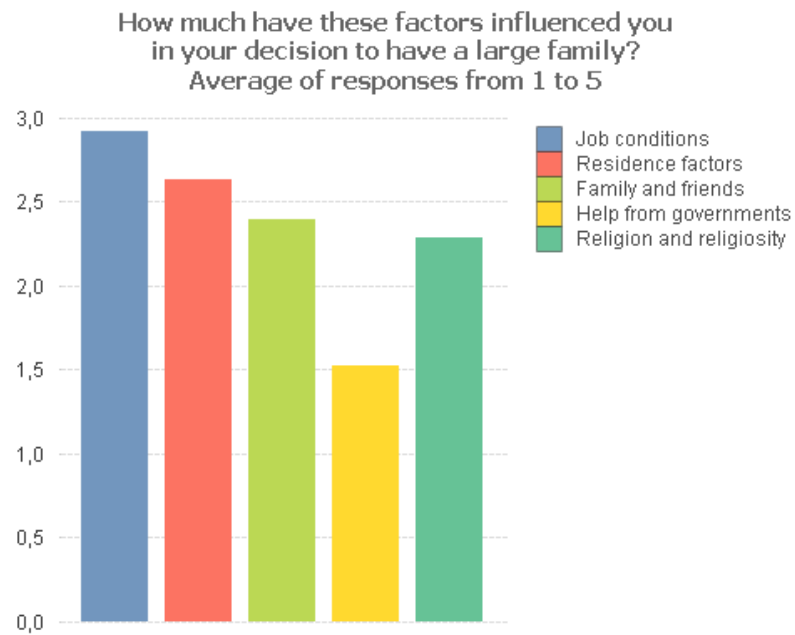
The two charts on the partners' religion look much alike. The majority (above 70%) are Catholic in France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain, 60% in Hungary and only one-fourth in Latvia. In the two latter countries the share of other Christian denominations is around one-fifth of large-family respondents.



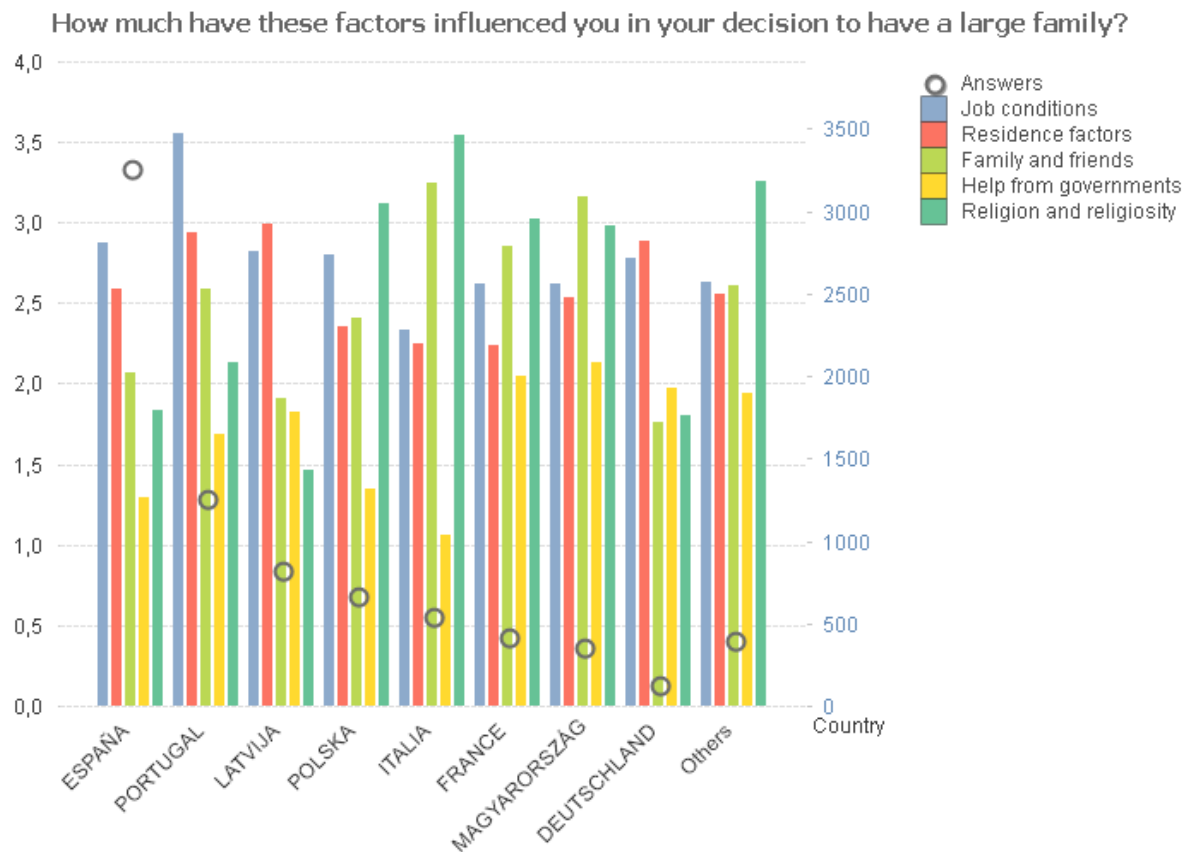
In most countries, the level of father's religiosity is below that of the mother's, except for Germany and Hungary with no difference between the spouses or partner regarding religiosity. Large families respondents in Latvia show the lowest religiosity levels, about half of the levels seen in Austria, France, Italy and Poland.



6) Summary of factors:



In the overall, among the five groups of factors studied in the survey, job conditions are seen as most important with respect to the decision to raise a large family, followed by residence-related factors. Help from governments seems to matter very little.



Although in the overall, job conditions seem to be the most influential factors, the picture is somewhat different when we look at the countries separately. Only in Spain and Portugal (from where most of the responses were obtained) are job conditions ranked highest. In Poland, Italy and France religion and religiosity are the most important factors, while residence-related factors dominate in Latvia and Germany. In Hungary, family and friends are the most important for the decision to raise a large family. Help from government, although less influential, but seem to matter in Hungary, France and Germany, unlike in Italy, Poland and Spain, that is countries with more limited state support for (large) families.

## Appendix

### Field names and descriptions of the three tables of the European Large Families Confederation Survey on the Conditions and Policies regarding Large Families

Most of the fields have a self-explanatory long field name. Here a short description or possible answers and information on the field type are provided for every field.

- Main table (Main table.xlsx)

Field name	Short description or answers	Field type
A_Resp_ID	Unique family ID	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_1_Who answers the survey? (please answer just one survey per household)	Wife/Husband/Together	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_2_Is your family a member of the national or regional large families association?	Yes/No	
B_Hshld_mmb_3_Country:Current residence	NUTS0	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_4_Region:Current residence	NUTS2	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_5_Province:Current residence	NUTS3	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_6_Wife:Citizenship:Couple Information	Countries list	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_7_Husband:Citizenship:Couple Information	Countries list	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_8_Wife:Age:Couple Information	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_9_Husband:Age:Couple Information	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_10_Wife:Current annual job income in Euros, before taxes:Couple Information	Income	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_11_Husband:Current annual job income in Euros, before taxes:Couple Information	Income	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_12_1:Number of own (biological or adopted) children:Couple Information	Number of children	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_13_1:Age of the own (biological or adopted) youngest child:Couple Information	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_14_1:Age of the own (biological or adopted) oldest child:Couple Information	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_15_Is your family an intact one or reconstituted?	Intact/Reconstituted	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_16_Previous couple of the current wife:Number of children (biological and adopted):5a	Number of children	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_17_Previous couple of the current husband:Number of children (biological and adopted):5a	Number of children	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_18_Children in common:Number of children (biological and adopted):5a	Number of children	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_19_Previous couple of the current wife:Age of the oldest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_20_Previous couple of the current husband:Age of the oldest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_21_Children in common:Age of the oldest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number

B_Hshld_mmb_22_Previous couple of the current wife:Age of the youngest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_23_Previous couple of the current husband:Age of the youngest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_24_Children in common:Age of the youngest child (biological or adopted):5a	Age	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_25_1:Person:Members of your household	respondent	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_26_1:Sex:Members of your household	Sex of person 1 (respondent)	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_27_1:Age:Members of your household	Age of person 1 (respondent)	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_28_1:Educational attainment:Members of your household	Educational attainment of person 1 (respondent)	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_29_1:Main activity:Members of your household	Main activity of person 1 (respondent)	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_30_1:Chronic illness?:Members of your household	Chronic illness? of person 1 (respondent)	Yes/No
B_Hshld_mmb_31_2:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 2: spouse/child/etc. of the respondent	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_32_3:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 3: child/grandchild/etc.	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_33_4:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 4: child/grandchild/etc.	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_34_5:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 5: child/grandchild/etc.	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_35_6:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 6: child/grandchild/etc.	Text
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_54_25:Person (family relationship to the respondent):6a	Person 25: child/grandchild/etc.	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_55_2:Sex:6a	Sex of person 2	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_56_3:Sex:6a	Sex of person 3	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_57_4:Sex:6a	Sex of person 4	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_58_5:Sex:6a	Sex of person 5	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_59_6:Sex:6a	Sex of person 6	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_60_7:Sex:6a	Sex of person 7	Text
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_78_25:Sex:6a	Sex of person 25	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_79_2:Age:6a	Age of person 2	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_80_3:Age:6a	Age of person 3	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_81_4:Age:6a	Age of person 4	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_82_5:Age:6a	Age of person 5	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_83_6:Age:6a	Age of person 6	Number
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_102_25:Age:6a	Age of person 25	Number
B_Hshld_mmb_103_2:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 2	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_104_3:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 3	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_105_4:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 4	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_106_5:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 5	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_107_6:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 6	Text
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_126_25:Educational attainment:6a	Educational attainment of person 25	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_127_2:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 2	Text

B_Hshld_mmb_128_3:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 3	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_129_4:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 4	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_130_5:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 5	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_131_6:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 6	Text
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_150_25:Main activity:6a	Main activity of person 25	Text
B_Hshld_mmb_151_2:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 2	Yes/No
B_Hshld_mmb_152_3:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 3	Yes/No
B_Hshld_mmb_153_4:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 4	Yes/No
B_Hshld_mmb_154_5:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 5	Yes/No
B_Hshld_mmb_155_6:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 6	Yes/No
etc.		
B_Hshld_mmb_174_25:Chronic illness?:6a	Chronic illness of person 25	Yes/No
C_job_conditions_0_8a_When you together decided to have your third child the husband had by then ...	a job/no job	
C_job_conditions_1_8a_When you together decided to have your third child the husband had by then ...	full-time job/part-time job	
C_job_conditions_2_8b_When you together decided to have your third child the husband had by then ...	permanent (job)/temporary (job)	
C_job_conditions_3_When you together decided to have your third child the wife had by then ...	a job/no job	
C_job_conditions_4_9a_When you together decided to have your third child the wife had by then ...	full-time job/part-time job	
C_job_conditions_5_9b_When you together decided to have your third child the wife had by then ...	permanent (job)/temporary (job)	
C_job_conditions_6_Paid leave for the father - was there such leave available then?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_7_10a_Paid leave. Did the father take it?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_8_10b_Paid leave for the father_number of weeks taken	Length of leave in weeks	Number
C_job_conditions_9_Paid leave for the mother - was there such leave available then?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_10_11a_Paid leave. Did the mother take it?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_11_11b_Paid leave for the mother_number of weeks taken	Length of leave in weeks	Number
C_job_conditions_12_Unpaid leave for the father - was there such leave available then?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_13_12a_Unpaid leave. Did the father take it?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_14_12b_Unpaid leave for the father_number of weeks taken	Length of leave in weeks	Number
C_job_conditions_15_Unpaid leave for the mother - was there such leave available then?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_16_13a_Unpaid leave. Did the mother take it?	Yes/No	
C_job_conditions_17_13b_Unpaid leave for the mother_number of weeks taken	Length of leave in weeks	Number
C_job_conditions_18_Other job conditions: please specify them below	Free text (field replicated in the table "texts.xlsx")	
D_residence_1_Do (some of) your children's grandparents live near your home?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_2_Do friends of yours (or of your spouse) live near your home?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_3_Do other large families with whom you socialize live near your home?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_4_Is there a public or private child care centre near your home?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_5_Do you rely on publicly supported	Yes/No	

childcare?_Localization patterns of your current family home		
D_residence_6_Do you rely on informal child care arrangements such as family members, kin, friends, neighbours?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_7_Do you rely on private childcare centres and/or au-pair?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_8_Are there good primary and/or secondary schools near your home?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_9_Is your town / village family-friendly?_Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_10_In case (some of) your children's grandparents live near your home, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_11_In case friends of yours (or of your spouse) live near your home, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_12_In case there are other large families with whom you socialize live near your home, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_13_In case there is a public or private child care centre near your home, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_14_In case you rely on publicly supported childcare, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_15_In case you rely on informal child care arrangements such as family members, kin, friends, neighbours, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_16_In case you rely on private childcare centres and/or au-pair?:Did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_17_In case there are good primary and/or secondary schools near your home, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_18_In case your town / village family-friendly, did your family move to your current residence because of this?:Localization patterns of your current family home	Yes/No	
D_residence_19_How many brothers and sisters does (or did) the husband have?	Number	
D_residence_20_How many brothers and sisters does (or did) the wife have?	Number	
D_residence_21_How many couples with 3 or more children are friends of yours?	Number	
D_residence_22_(If applicable) Have the large families of your parents or of your friends inspired you both to have a large family?	Yes/No	
E_govt_help_1_Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes):Available, requested and obtained?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Not available/Available but not requested/Obtained/Requested but not obtained	Text
E_govt_help_2_One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"):Available, requested and obtained?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time		
E_govt_help_3_Child allowance, per month:Available, requested and obtained?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time		
E_govt_help_4_Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month:Available, requested and obtained?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time		
E_govt_help_5_Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.):Available, requested and obtained?:Specify the		

type of help granted by governments to your family any time		
E_govt_help_6_Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes):If applicable, for how many of your children has your family benefited from this help?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Number	
E_govt_help_7_One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"):If applicable, for how many of your children has your family benefited from this help?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Number	
E_govt_help_8_Child allowance, per month:If applicable, for how many of your children has your family benefited from this help?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Number	
E_govt_help_9_Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month:If applicable, for how many of your children has your family benefited from this help?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Number	
E_govt_help_10_Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.):If applicable, for how many of your children has your family benefited from this help?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Number	
E_govt_help_11_Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes):If available and used, how much did you get from these local governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_12_One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"):If available and used, how much did you get from these local governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_13_Child allowance, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these local governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_14_Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these local governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_15_Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.):If available and used, how much did you get from these local governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_16_Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes):If available and used, how much did you get from these regional governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_17_One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"):If available and used, how much did you get from these regional governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_18_Child allowance, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these regional governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_19_Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these regional governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number

E_govt_help_20_Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.):If available and used, how much did you get from these regional governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_21_Tax deductions for every child (housing tax, income tax or other taxes):If available and used, how much did you get from these national governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_22_One-time cash benefit received at the birth ("baby-bonus"):If available and used, how much did you get from these national governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_23_Child allowance, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these national governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_24_Allowance during the maternity or paternity or parental leave, per month:If available and used, how much did you get from these national governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
E_govt_help_25_Fees deductions for every child (in school, in transportation, etc.):If available and used, how much did you get from these national governments altogether (for all the corresponding children)?:Specify the type of help granted by governments to your family any time	Ranges of amounts of money (in €)	Number
F_religion_1_Religion - wife	Religions drop down	Text
F_religion_2_Religiosity: please rate it from 1 to 5 (attendance of religious services, fulfilment of your religion, etc.) (1, lowest religiosity; 5, highest religiosity)	Number	
F_religion_3_Religion - husband	Religions drop down	Text
F_religion_4_Religiosity: please rate it from 1 to 5 (attendance of religious services, fulfilment of your religion, etc.) (1, lowest religiosity; 5, highest religiosity)	Number	
G_other_factors_1_Has your family ever received help (services, information, financial, discounts, vouchers, etc.) from your national, regional or local large families association?	Yes/No	
G_other_factors_2_Job conditions:Please rate it from 1 to 5 (1, least important; 5, most important):How much have these factors influenced you in your decision to have a large family?	Number	
G_other_factors_3_Family residence factors:Please rate it from 1 to 5 (1, least important; 5, most important):How much have these factors influenced you in your decision to have a large family?	Number	
G_other_factors_4_Family and friends' factors:Please rate it from 1 to 5 (1, least important; 5, most important):How much have these factors influenced you in your decision to have a large family?	Number	
G_other_factors_5_Help from governments:Please rate it from 1 to 5 (1, least important; 5, most important):How much have these factors influenced you in your decision to have a large family?	Number	
G_other_factors_6_Religion and religiosity:Please rate it from 1 to 5 (1, least important; 5, most important):How much have these factors influenced you in your decision to have a large family?	Number	



- Household members (Members.xlsx)

Field name	Short description or answers	Field type
A_Resp_ID	Unique family ID	Number
Relationship	The respondent of the survey or other members of the household (spouse, cohabitant, child, grandparent, etc.).	Text
Sex	Sex of the members of the household	Text
Age	Age of the members of the household	Number
Educational_attainment	Drop down with educational attainment levels, for the members of the household	Text
Main_activity	Drop down with activities' types, for the members of the household	Number
Chronic_illness	Whether household members have got a chronic illness	Yes/No

- Textual answers (Free text.xlsx)

Field name	Short description or answers	Field type
A_Resp_ID	Unique family ID	Number
Language	Language of the respondent	Text
Other job conditions: please specify them below	Field replicated from Main table	Free text
How do you parents manage in raising your children? What are the difficulties you encounter? How do you solve them?	Free text	
How should local, state or national governments help large families better?	Free text	
Did the wife encounter problems in case she wanted to return to job?	Free text	
In your opinion, what is a family-friendly workplace and what are/should be its good practices?	Free text	
In your opinion, what is a family-friendly town and what are/should be its good practices?	Free text	
Tell us some other "large family good practices" you would like to share with us (how you manage to raise a large family with your large or scarce resources (time, money, etc.) and how you have got help from grandparents, schools, church, friends, associatons, etc.)	Free text	