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Are young Europeans less likely to live with a partner as their educational attainment level increases?

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ARE YOUNG EUROPEANS LESS LIKELY TO LIVE WITH A PARTNER AS THEIR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL INCREASES?

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Institute for Social and Economic Research

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the relationship between educational attainment and partnership status for the European Union Countries during the period 1994-99 for young people aged 17-35 years. The source of data is the European Community Household Panel. Partnership status is coded 1 if a person is living with a couple and 0 otherwise. As the dependent variable is dichotomous, we fit a logistic regression model in which being in a partnership depends on age (taken as continuous variable with two factors, age and its square), sex and educational attainment. Covariance for sex and age is controlled. Categories for education are "up to 1st secondary", "completed secondary education" and "university". Finally, we fit the model for young people working full-time, in order to analyse the behaviour of this specific population.

The coefficients for the explanatory variables show the odds ratio of being in a partnership regarding to the reference category for each variable. In the first step of the model, taking age and sex as independent variables, coefficients for each country show the net effects of the variable "country of residence" in the model. Nevertheless, once education is incorporated to the model, the interaction with sex and country has to be taking into account, as it is not possible to get the independent net effects for age, sex and country of residence.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This paper is devoted to reveal the relationship between two variables: educational attainment and being in a partnership (regardless whether is a marriage or a consensual union) among young people within the European Union for the period 1994-99.

We use a subsample of the European Community Household Panel of those aged 17-35 years.

Controlling by sex and age, the levels of partnership are calculated for countries and regions, showing how contrasted they are within the European Union. The two poles in that scale were experienced by Denmark at the highest point and Italy at the lowest (there were not significant regional differences in this last country).

Our purpose is somewhat to try to explain where these differences come from and why they arise. The variable used for that purpose is educational attainment. But these distinct patterns were not explained for the relationship between education and partnership. In general, for all the countries within the European Union (with the exception of Austria), higher educational attainment meant for men lower probabilities of being in a partnership, whereas women were more likely to be in a partnership as higher was their educational attainment.

This surprising evidence does not fit the existing theory on the link between education (or human capital) and partnership, because the usual hypothesis states the opposite, that is, then females are less likely to reside with a partner as higher is their educational attainment and, on the contrary, men are more likely to live with a couple as higher is their educational level.

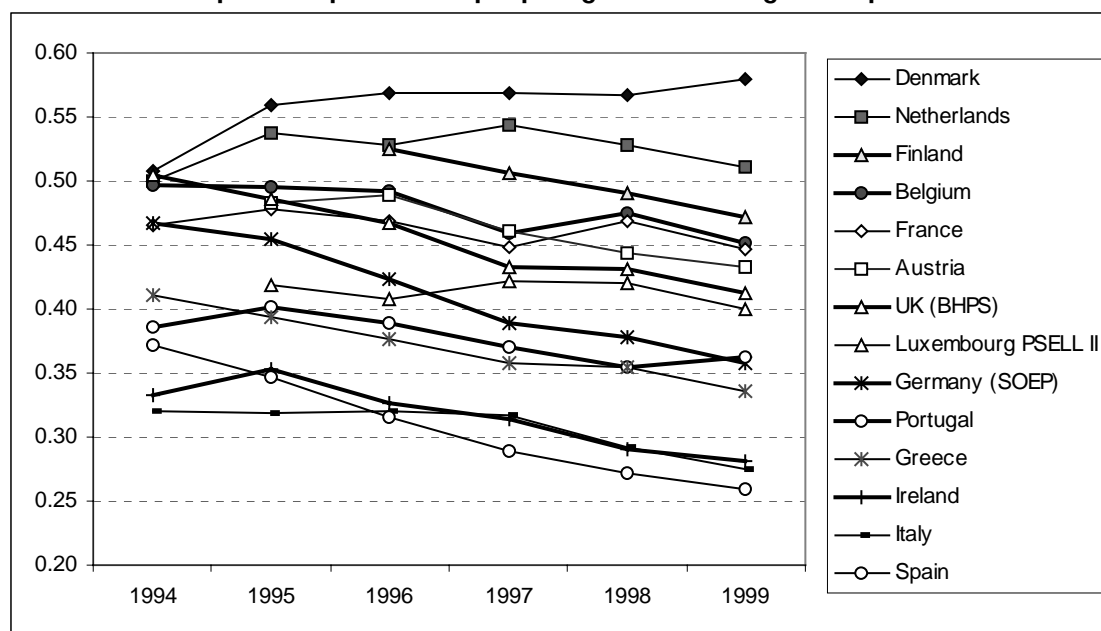
1. Source of data and methodology

The European Community Household Panel (ECHP) is a longitudinal survey that has been carried out annually since 1994 up to 1999 (at the time of writing) in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the project in 1995, 1996 and 1998 respectively. The panel contains nationally representative sample of households, collecting a wide range of data for each person living in the household aged over 16 years. The data set includes data from the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) and the German Socio-economic Panel (GSOEP); moreover, the data for Luxembourg comes from two different samples (PSELL I and II); different data sets from the same country will be treated separately. Because the same questions are asked in each country, the results are directly comparable across countries. All tables and graphs presented in this paper are directly derived from the ECHP data set.

In this paper, partnership status is observed (living arrangements in the ECHP refer to the day of interview)¹. We divide people in two groups, depending on whether they live with a partner: people are counted as "partnered" if they have a spouse or consensual partner living in the same household, and as "non partnered" otherwise. Thus, as the dependent variable is dichotomous, we fit a logistic regression model.

Since we are interested in young people's living arrangements, we have selected those aged from 17 to 35 years, computing the proportions of people who are living with a partner within that age range. Graph 1 shows how the proportions of partnered young people aged 17-35 years were highly variable among the European Union and how they changed from 1994 to 1999. Generally, countries seem to be grouped following roundly a North/Centre/South division (see Iacobou, 1998).

Graph 1. Proportions of people aged 17-35 living with a partner



Source: table 1, statistical annex

¹ The variable on the partnership status is derived from the question on cohabitation status in the personal file and from the relationship file, where one can identify who is living with a spouse or a partner.

2. Territorial analysis

Partnership proportions in the European Union are quite strikingly diverse, with a range of young people aged 17-35 living with a partner from 25% to a 60%.

Firstly, we should remark that there is just one country among those analysed where proportions of living with a partner for young people aged 17 to 35 years have slightly increased, that is Denmark. In that country, partnership proportions rose from 50% in 1994 to 55% in 1995 and to almost 60% in 1999. Nearly, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden, during 1994-99², maintained about half of the population of 17-35 years olds living with their couple. Belgium, France and Austria³, in contrast, experienced a decrease in those proportions from 50% to 45%, converging in 1999 with Luxembourg. Germany registered a ten percentage points progressive falling in its percentage of young people living within a couple, reaching in 1999 a proportion of 35%, converging at that point with Portugal, which in 1994 started from a proportion of 40%. The trend for Greece was parallel to the German one but at different level, falling from a percentage slightly over 40% in 1994 to one slightly lower than 35% in 1999. The level for Ireland and Italy remained at 33% up to 1997, from then it has been declining, down to 28% in 1999 (graph 1).

Certainly, age and sex could be key factors to explain the six patterns found across countries: consequently, the first step has been to fit a model with sex, age and its square as independent variables (table II, statistical annex). In graph 2 we represent the observed proportions by age and sex of people living with a couple in the European Union for the overall period 1994-99. As we could expect, age increases considerably the probability of being partnered, from being virtually nil for people aged 18 years, until a maximum at 35 years of 80% for women and around 75% for men. In fact, partnership proportions are higher for women than for men, specially in central ages, pointing to the issue of the age gap existing between sexes at partnership, as women in a couple are on average younger than men.

Our intention is to control both for age and sex. In graph 2 we plotted an estimation for the proportions of young people living with a partner using age and sex as explanatory factors, showing a model with the net effects of age and sex and another taking into account the interaction between these two variables. Although the model considering the interaction fits much better the observed data, for the sake of parsimony, we are not going to use that interaction, taking on board uniquely the independent effects of age and sex.

The overall pattern by sex and age for the European Union has been gradually lowering from 1994 to 1999 (graph 3). But this decrease was more sharply for young people on their twenties than for those in their early thirties. Indeed, at 35 years, the proportions are quite similar, that is, 85% for women and 70% for men, for both 1994 and 1999. So, we certainly infer the existence of a displacement in the age patterns curve, that is, the European Union during that period has experienced an evolution through a later timing in partnership formation.

Moreover, some countries have contributed differently to this overall decline. Indeed, coefficients, once sex, age and year of observation have been controlled, show at what extent that decrease in

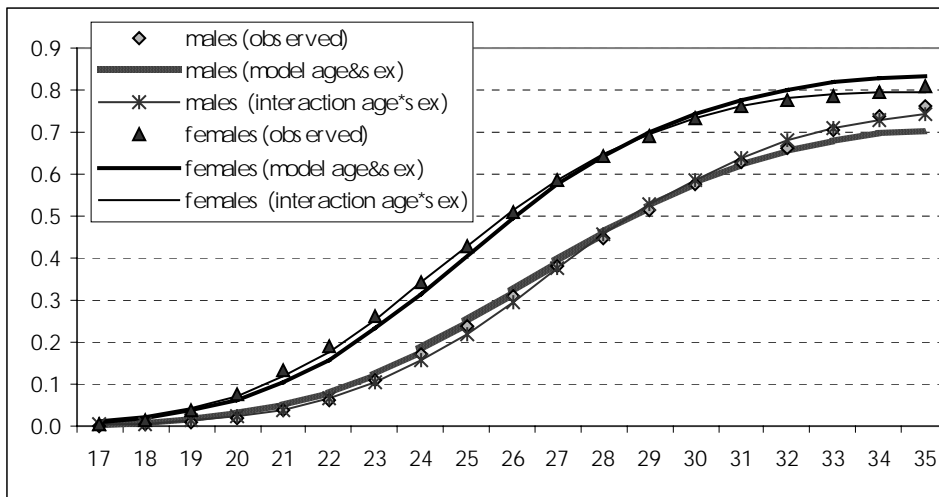
² For Sweden data is available just for 1998 and 1999.

³ For Austria estimations are not statistically significant for 1995, 1996 and 1997.

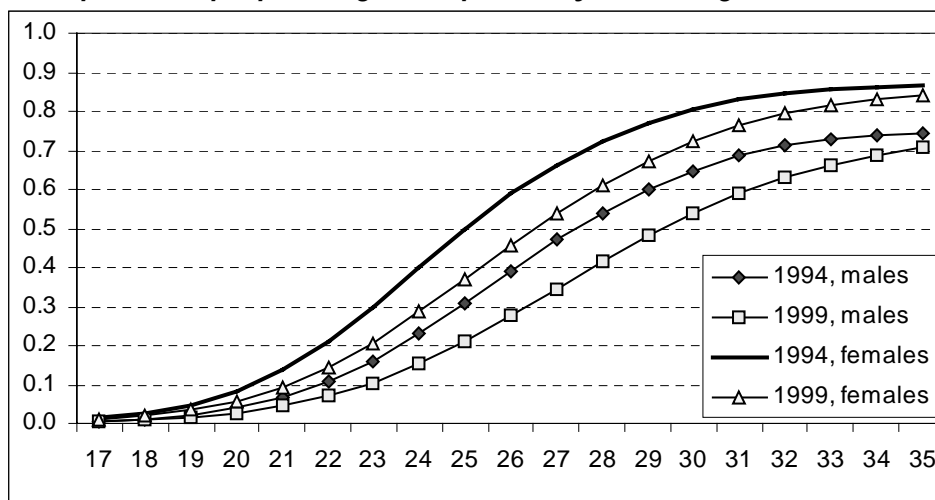
proportions of young people aged 17-35 years living in a partnership have affected idiosyncratically to each country within the European Union (graph 4).

The Danish pattern has been used as the reference category because Danish age-and-sex-pattern in these proportions has remained almost identical over the analysed period (graph 5). Definitely, Denmark was not affected for the crisis in young partnership. According to that evidence, almost every Danish female aged 33-35 years were living with a partner, not having that partnership status less than 5% of them. And so were around 85% of Danish males at that age in 1999.

Graph 2. Proportion of people living with a partner by sex and age, European Union, 1994-99



Graph 3. Proportion of people living with a partner by sex and age, E.U., 1994 and 1999



Thus, taking the Danish pattern as a reference category, graph 4 presents the extension of the decrease in those proportions over time. In parallel, graph 6 plots the translation of these coefficients to their correspondent age patterns among men in some selected countries (we should remember that women had coefficients of 0.80 respect to their males counterparts). The two poles in the scale, now controlling for sex and age, have not moved: whilst the highest proportion of young people was experienced by Denmark (reference category, with a coefficient of 0.00), the lowest was observed in Italy and Spain (with coefficients of -1.70 in 1998-99).

For Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands, the level of people living in a partnership were much more lower than in Denmark (with coefficients reaching -0.50 during late 1990s); although not always the differences were significant enough in statistical terms (table II, statistical annex). In addition, for Sweden, we should have data for a longer period to be completely sure this country belongs to that group. These coefficients meant partnership proportions almost ten percentage points lower than in Denmark (graph 6). In general, we clearly observe within the European Union a Scandinavian pattern for partnership status, with the highest proportions of young people living with a partner. From now onwards, we will call that the Danish pattern, as this is the country where that pattern was more pronounced.

The trend for France and Belgium was substantially similar, from a coefficient of -0.20 in 1994 to one of -0.80 in 1999 (graph 4), meaning that those countries experienced proportions fifteen percentage points lower than Denmark (graph 6). A parallel pattern was registered for the United Kingdom, although some coefficients are not significant enough and there are some inconsistencies between the information provided for the ECHP and the one resulting from the BHPS (table II, statistical annex). We will denominate that second pattern as the top-middle pattern.

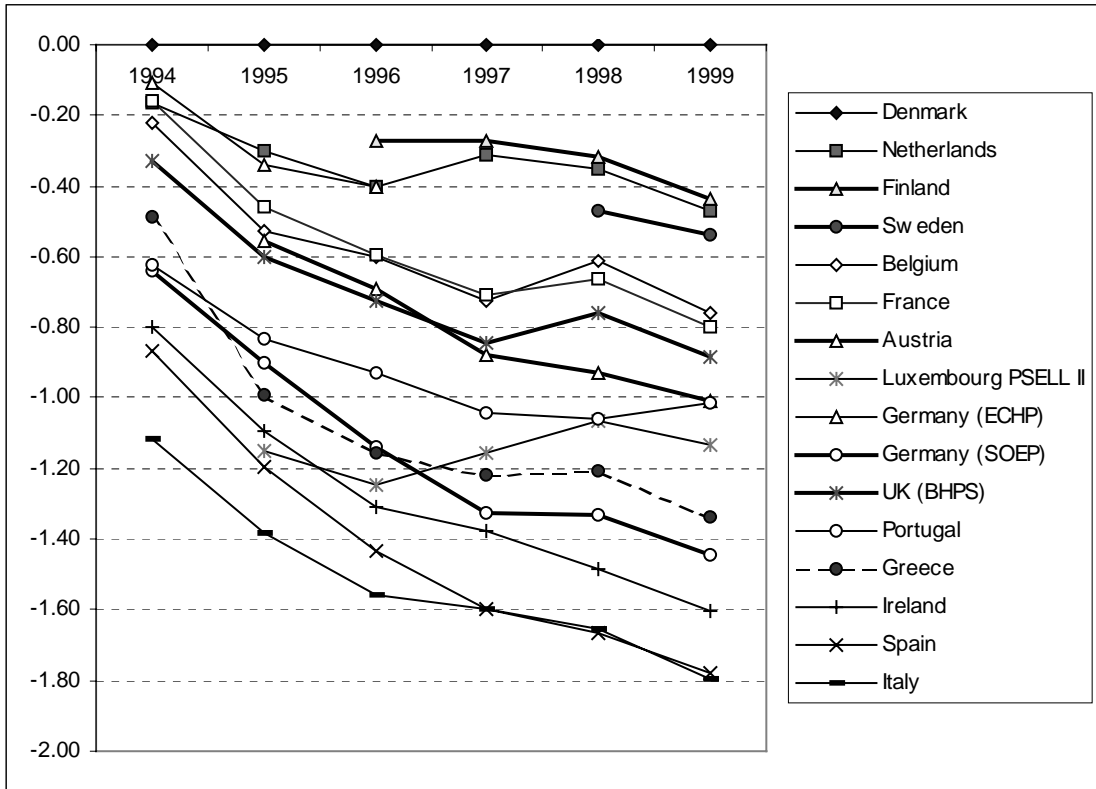
Austria and Portugal converged at the same level in 1999, with a coefficient of -1 , that is, an odds ratio of being in a partnership half that of the reference category (Denmark); although Austria had started from a higher level (from a coefficient of -0.6 in 1995), so the decline was much sharper for Portugal (with a coefficient of -0.8 in 1995). But the decrease was even sharper in Greece, which from a starting point higher than in Portugal ended in a level more than five percentage points lower than this country (with a coefficient 34 percentage points lower in Greece than in Portugal). Whilst Luxembourg experienced during that period a quite constant odds ratio of -1.15 , Germany observed a partnership crisis with a fall in the estimated coefficients from -0.6 in 1994 to -1.44 in 1999 (in that last year, it was similar to the Greek one). We will group all that patterns together and call it bottom-middle pattern.

Finally, the triad formed by Ireland and, specially, Spain and Italy registered the lowest level during all the period, controlling by age and sex. The coefficients in 1999 were -1.6 in Ireland and -1.8 for Italy and Spain (graph 4), meaning partnership proportions among young people forty percentage points lower than in Denmark (graph 6). This pattern will be denoted as the Italian pattern.

In conclusion, controlling by sex and age do not bring any light on the reasons for the differences registered in the proportion of young people living with their partner. Anyway, we have discovered four contrasting levels in the proportions of people living in a partnership, that now we will present at a regional level. In order to reduce the sampling error, we have pooled the data for all the available waves in the data set, presenting the coefficients for the overall period 1994-99 (table III, statistical annex). The regions are usually NUTS level 1, although for some countries have been grouped together for confidential reasons: map 1 plots that information (please note that the Netherlands and Sweden are not drawn).

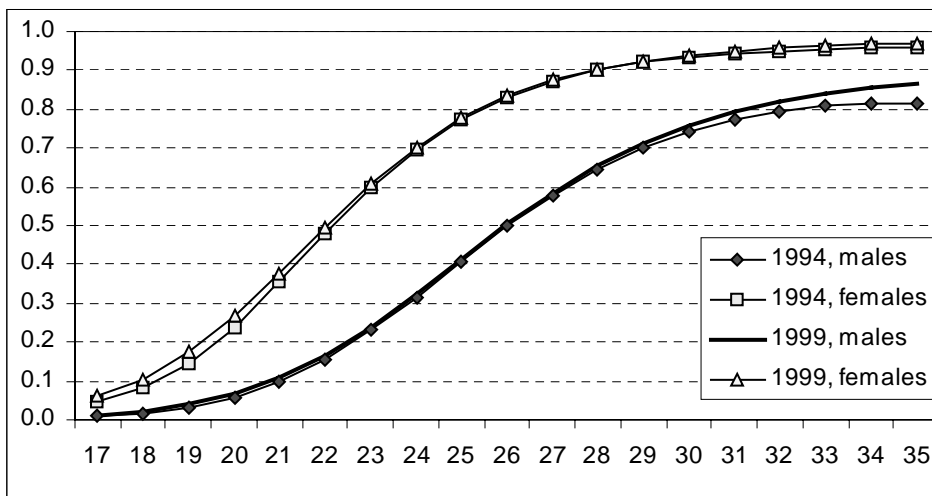
Of course, the boundaries among the patterns are somehow arbitrary, but the four patterns that we have discovered among countries, appear quite clearly at a regional level. Table III (in the statistical annex) presents the estimated coefficients for the regions, the standard error and at what extent any of them are significantly different to the reference category, that is, Denmark. The tendency, once we order the coefficients, is really smooth, with some outlier values at the top (East Anglia and East Midlands, Central Finland and Denmark) and on the bottom of the scale (Sardegna and Hamburg).

Graph 4. Coefficients for the countries on a model explaining partnership situation taking age and sex as covariants (EU is the reference category), from 1994 to 1999

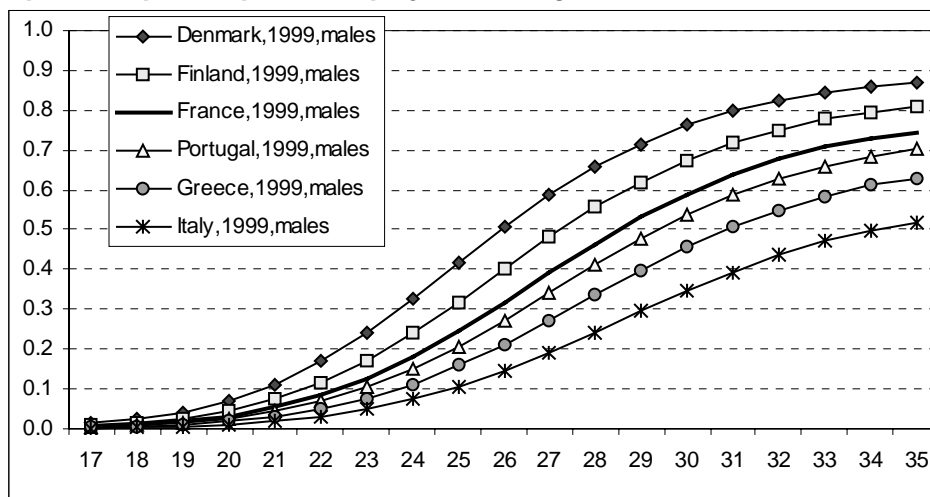


Source: table II, statistical annex

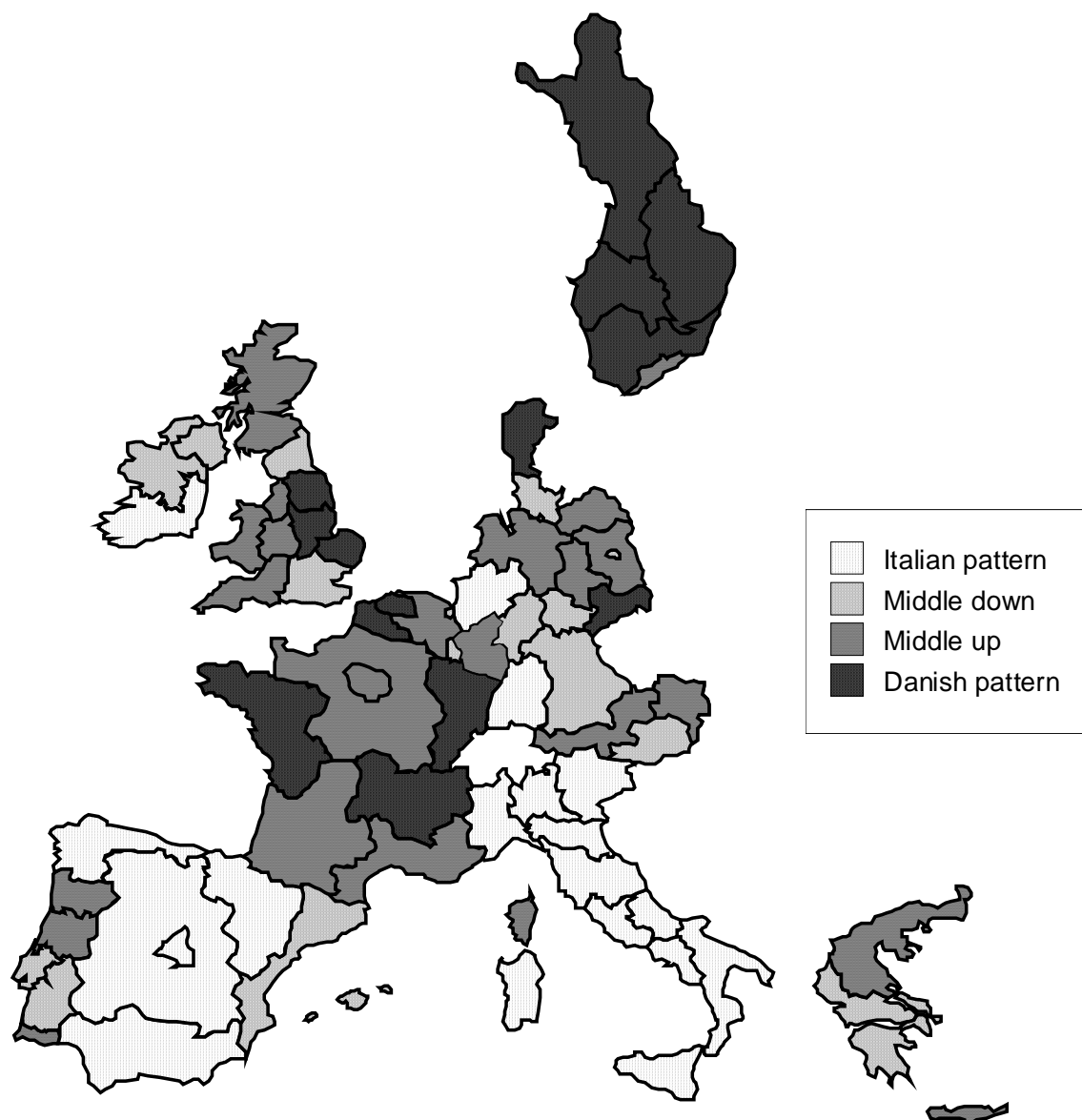
Graph 5. Proportion of people in a partnership by sex and age, Denmark, 1994 and 1999



Graph 6. People in a partnership by sex and age, selected countries, males, 1999



Map 1. The four pattern in the proportion of young people living in a partnership



In summary, the Danish pattern was clearly followed for East Anglia and East Midlands in the UK, and Central Finland (with the exception of Helsinki area). Near that pattern, from a coefficient of -0.19 to one of -0.45 (around the Netherlands pattern), were situated Yorkshire and Humberside in the United Kingdom, the rest of Finland (without the Helsinki area), half of the French regions, Shagen in Germany and Vlaams Gewest in Belgium. A coefficient of -0.45 meant that 80% of people aged 35 years were living with a partner: here we have drawn our first border for partnership proportions in the map 1.

A coefficient of -0.5 were estimated for Sweden, Helsinki area in Finland, West Midlands and Scotland in the United Kingdom and Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Germany. From that point to a coefficient of -0.9 we have grouped the second level in partnership proportions among young people. The proportions of people aged 35 years leaving with a partner corresponding to those coefficients were from 70 to 80%. The rest of France and Belgium (excluding Brussels area) were as well in that group, and half of Portugal and Austria, Northern Greece and the Greek Islands, and Sachsen-Anhalt, Rheinland-Pfalz+Saarland and Niedersachsen in Germany, West England and Wales. This is the threshold for our third group of regions in map 1.

This third group goes from a coefficient of -0.9 to a coefficient of -1.2 , corresponding to partnership proportions at 35 years going from 70 to 65%. Here were East England, Northern Ireland and Ireland excluding the Dublin area, Alentejo and the Lisbon area in Portugal, six states in Germany (Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein, Bayern, Hessen, Thüringen and Bremen), Luxembourg and Brussels area, Eastern Spain (Catalan speaking areas) and the Canaries Islands, Central Greece and Athens area.

And the Italian pattern was followed for those regions with a coefficient lower than -1.3 , meaning proportions at 35 years lower than 65%. It was the case, obviously, in the whole Italy, virtually all Spain (with the exception of the Eastern part and the Canary Islands), the area of Dublin, the island of Madeira in Portugal, Hamburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen and Baden-Württemberg.

3. Education and working situation as explanatory variables for partnership situation

Is educational attainment providing any extra clue for the contrasting levels in the proportions of people living with a partner in the different analysed countries?

According to Becker' New Household Economics (1991), increased female education led to higher cost of entry in a union and, consequently, lower probabilities of living with a couple among young women. Moreover, the Second Demographic Transition theory states that higher female educational attainment implies greater assertiveness in favour of more symmetrical gender roles and, as a consequence, lower partnership formation rates (Lesthaeghe, 1995). Consequently, for women, more education means lower probabilities to live with a couple, because, for one hand, opportunity cost for women to enter in a union increases dramatically with education and, for the other hand, more education implies higher demand over symmetrical roles within the family nucleus.

Although men are usually missing in these theories, we expect to find in all analysed countries, that higher education lead among males to higher probabilities of being in a partnership, as normally men get a better position in the labour market as higher is their level of education.

However, other authors have pointed out that this relationship between education and female partnership formation depends on the response of social institutions. Generally, in Western countries, whereas educational institutions do answer to that demand, marriage or partnership are still not fully adapted to symmetrical gender roles; where this contradiction exists, partnership formation rates are extremely low (McDonald, 1997). Nevertheless, this contradiction is becoming weakened in Europe, because the European family is transiting from a complementary family, with asymmetrical gender roles, to an more equalitarian one, with more symmetrical gender roles (Cabr , 1989): Spain is a good example of this process (Luxan *et al*, 1999).

Qualification in the European Community Household Panel has been coded according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). The first registered level are "Upper Secondary" (ISCED, level 3), defined as the qualification obtained at the stage of transferring from school to university about the age of 18 years⁴. Moreover, we should bear in mind that whilst many university students in the UK graduate at the age of 21, in Germany, Italy or Spain they do not usually complete their undergraduate degrees until the age of 25 years or later. Indeed, while the degree in the

⁴ Although it is not the case, for instance, in Germany young people finish this level with 19 years.

UK lasts 3 years, in Italy or Spain does last 4 years and in Germany about 5 years. In sum, there is an enormous variation among education systems⁵.

In sum, there are three categories in the ECHP for educational attainment, regarding to whether an individual has completed their secondary schooling or obtaining a degree. Virtually nobody reaches a University degree below the age of 21 years, so it will be the minimum age considered in our analysis from now onwards. Moreover, standard errors are considerably high if we check the effects of education for every single observational year, consequently, we will run the model for the overall period 1994-1999 (we should bear in mind that data for some of the surveys is not available for the whole period).

Previous analysis on the data has showed that there is no interaction between age and educational attainment, that is, the proportion of people living with a partner by age has a similar age pattern for all educational attainment levels. On the contrary, there is an idiosyncratic educational pattern by sex in each country, so we include in the model the interaction among sex, country and educational attainment (table IV, statistical annex).

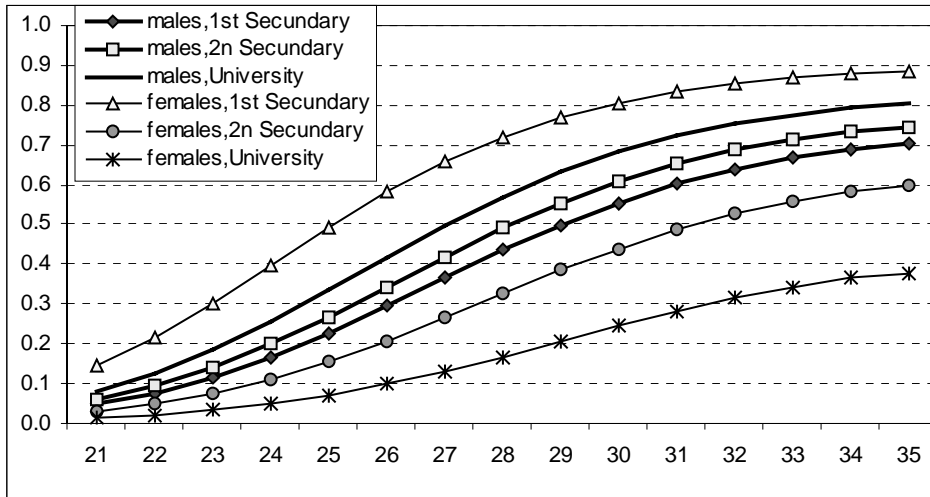
Evidence from Austria clearly shows the pattern we were looking for (graph 7): Austrian men have higher probability of being in a partnership the more educated they are, whilst women have lower probabilities of being in a partnership the higher their educational attainment. But no other country strictly sticks to that norm.

Another idiosyncratic pattern can be found in Greece, where both men and women with a university degree were slightly less likely to be in a partnership than those with less than secondary education.

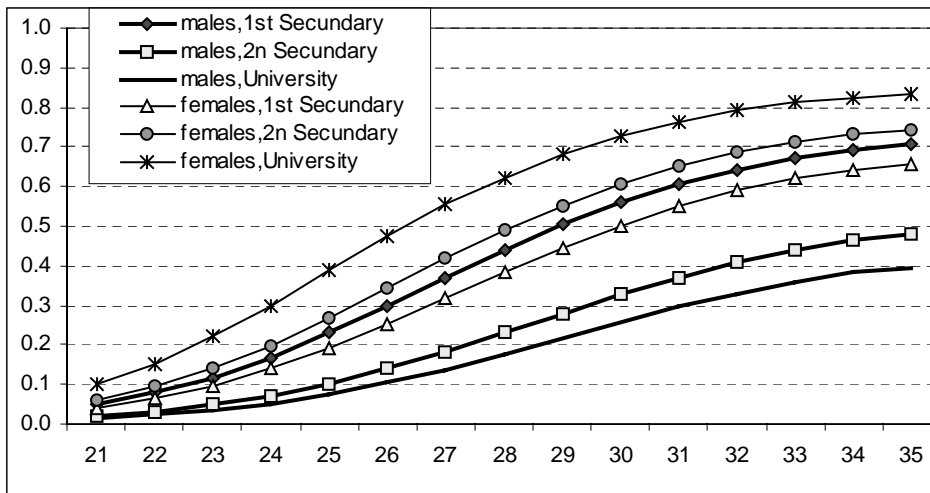
Austrian and Grecian patterns were not the normal pattern within the European Union but the exceptions. Surprisingly, in all the other countries, the model was completely the opposite, that is, males were less likely to be in a partnership the higher were their level of education, whilst females were more likely to be in a partnership the higher were their educational attainment (see graph 8 for Spain). Certainly, the hypothesis presented above regarding education and partnership are not observable presently in the European Union (see the coefficients represented in graph 9).

Graph 7. People in a partnership by sex, age and educational attainment, Austria, 1994-99

⁵ See Iacovou and Berthoud, 2001, for a description on the educational patterns in the European Union.



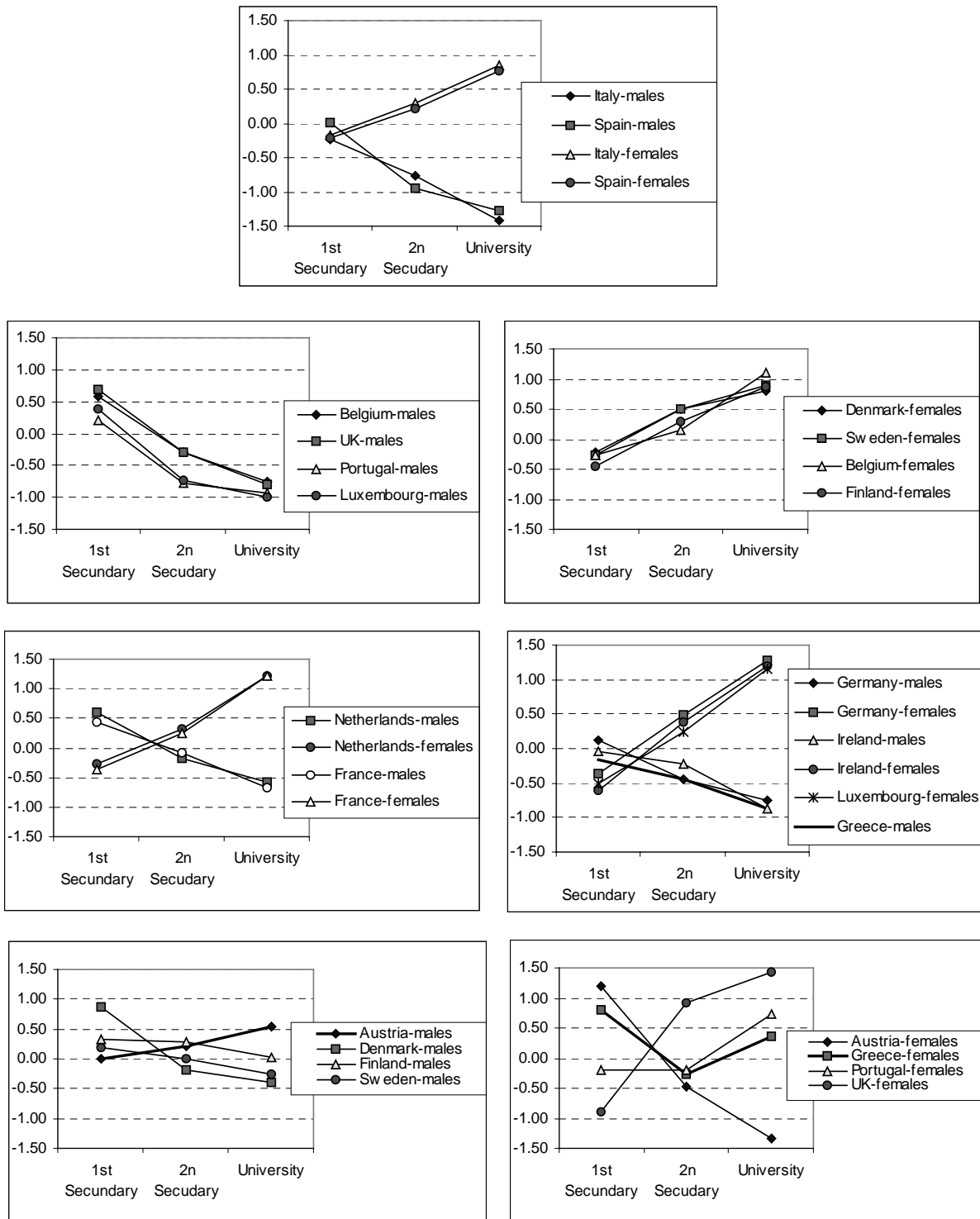
Graph 8. People in a partnership by sex, age and educational attainment, Spain, 1994-99



In sum, there are three groups of countries that share the educational model regarding to partnership status for both sexes: these are, firstly, Italy and Spain, secondly, Germany and Ireland and, finally, France and the Netherlands.

Indeed, the probability of living with a partner was almost identical for those Italians and Spaniards who had not completed their secondary education, regardless of sex (their coefficient was 0.00). And, as we can observe in graph 9, whilst men were less likely to be in a partnership the higher their educational attainment, the opposite applied to women (coefficients were, for men, -1 for those with less than a completed secondary school and 1.5 for those with a University degree and, for women, of 0.5 and 1 respectively). In contrast, for Germany and Ireland, the coefficients changed as higher was the educational attainment from 0 to -1 for men and from -0.5 to 1 for women, and in the Netherlands and France they moved from 0.5 to -0.5 for males and from -0.5 to 1 for females (graph 9).

Graph 9. Coefficients for educational attainment by countries and sex



Females from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Belgium showed very similar probabilities of being in a partnership by level of education than Spanish and Italian ones, but the model was different for men.

Men in Luxembourg and Portugal had higher probabilities of being with a partner than the Italians and Spanish, whatever the educational observed category, so, they shared the same model regarding to

education, but not the same level regarding to partnership. The same applies for Belgium men and males from the United Kingdom (graph 9).

However, education does not help to explain the differences founded across the European Union, as the same model applies to countries with extremely contrasting proportions of young people living with a partner. So, the lowest proportions of young people living in a couple were found in Italy, the highest in Denmark, but both countries shared the model of education influencing partnership levels. We should, indeed, explain that surprising educational model.

We turn to the final variable in this paper to try to find some light for the explanation of the differences founded within the European Union in proportions of young people living with a partner. We will divide the sample in two groups, regarding employment status, according to whether a person is working full-time; the other group is formed for those working part-time, unemployed or non-active. The hypothesis being tested state that just working full-time men are more likely to be in a partnership as higher is their educational attainment and just working full-time women are less likely to be in a couple as higher is their educational attainment. So, it is employment that activates educational attainment.

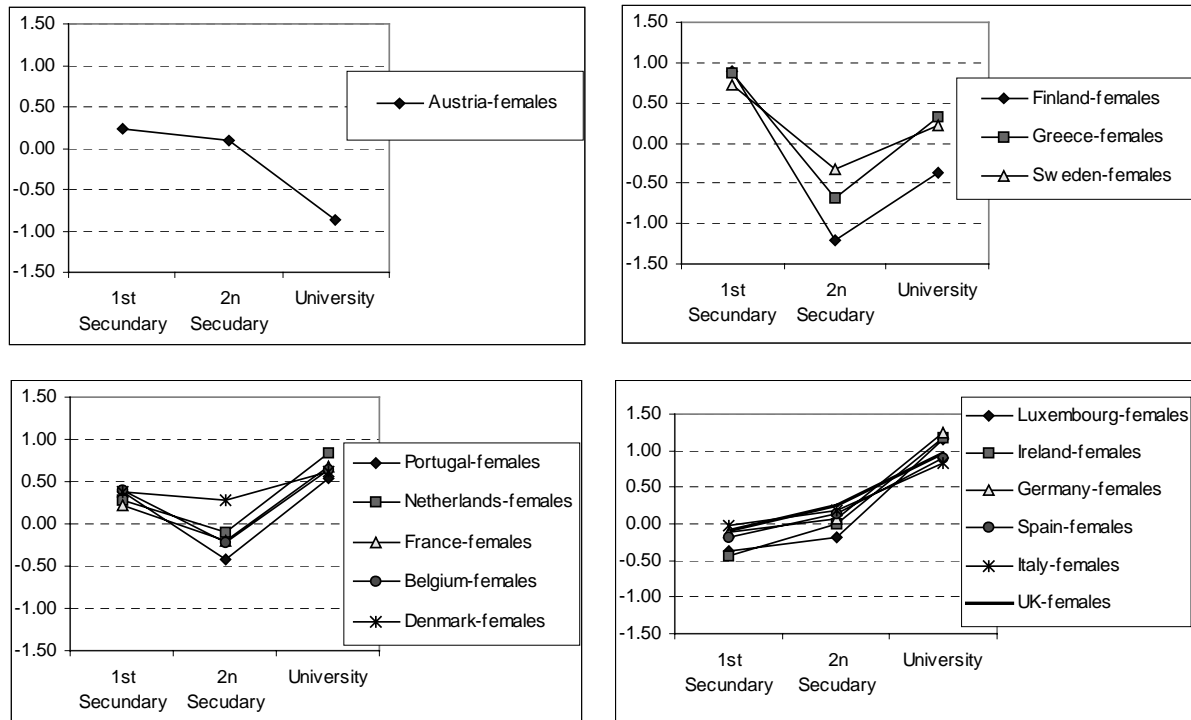
But not much evidence has been found in that sense. In fact, the model applies both for working full-time men and for men with other employment status. Nevertheless, in some countries we do find a specific model for working full-time women (graph 10).

Firstly, we should remark than the Austrian model remains as we observed, that is, higher education attainment meant for women lower probabilities of being in a partnership. In Finland, Sweden and Greece, nevertheless, the probability for female full-time workers to live in a couple was much lower for those with a completed secondary school than for those with less than that level of education; and, although holding a degree meant higher probabilities than secondary school, a degree also implied lower probabilities than a maximum 1st stage of secondary education. In sum, among working full-time women, Finland, Sweden and Greece followed somehow the pattern expected from the New Household Economics theory. But they were the only countries that joined the Austrian model, and just for working full-time women. So, we can name that pattern as "European".

On contrast, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal, although had slightly lower probabilities for female full-time workers with a complete secondary education than for those with a lower educational level, holding a degree clearly meant to be more likely to reside within a couple than any other educational attainment category. In conclusion, these five countries do not fit the previous schema, even for women working full-time.

Finally, there is a group of six countries that do not change at all its model in the relationship between education and partnership, maintaining the schema of higher probabilities, as higher the education attainment. This is the case of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Germany, Spain and Italy.

Graph 10. Coefficients for educational attainment by countries and sex, females working full-time



Conclusions

We have observed four contrasting patterns on the partnership status in the European Union for the period 1994-99. Scandinavian countries experienced the highest proportion of young people living with a partner, followed by Austria, Luxembourg, Germany, Greece and Portugal; finally, the lowest percentages were registered in Ireland, Spain and Italy.

The hypothesis of women less likely to be in a partnership as higher is their educational attainment has been proved false. In fact, the evidence presented in this paper point to the opposite hypothesis, that is, within the European Union, women are more likely to be living with a partner as higher is their level of education. This schema does not fit any current paradigm in social sciences. We need to replicate this model with other data and, if the results are similar, look forward for another theory that could explain this evidence.

But even more striking is the model regarding males, as men are less likely to be in a partnership as higher is their education attainment. Precisely the model we expected to find for women. We do not have any theoretical explanation to cope with this evidence.

Employment status does not help to explain the differences. Certainly, the model slightly change for some countries, but again the same model applies to countries with extremely different levels in the proportions of those with a partner.

In sum, we were not able to explain these differences neither because of educational attainment nor with employment status.

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Table I. Explanatory model of the proportions of people aged 17-35 years living with a partner, according to country of residence and year

	1994(n)	Coefficient	SE	p-value	sig.	Proportion	1995(n)	Coefficient	SE	p-value	sig.	Proportion	1996(n)	Coefficient	SE	p-value	sig.	Proportion	
RESIDENCE																			
EUROPEAN UNION	52,841	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.45	53,857	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.45	52,125	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.44	
Germany (ECHP)	3,171	0.12	0.03	0.000	***	0.48	2,815	0.09	0.04	0.000	***	0.47	2,566	0.00	0.04	0.051	*	0.44	
Denmark	2,015	0.24	0.04	0.000	***	0.51	1,793	0.44	0.04	0.000	***	0.56	1,565	0.51	0.04	0.000	***	0.57	
Netherlands	3,239	0.21	0.03	0.000	***	0.50	3,073	0.35	0.03	0.000	***	0.54	3,020	0.34	0.03	0.000	***	0.53	
Belgium	2,402	0.21	0.04	0.000	***	0.50	2,187	0.18	0.04	0.000	***	0.50	1,947	0.20	0.04	0.000	***	0.49	
Luxembourg PSELL I	789	0.32	0.07	0.000	***	0.53	706	0.24	0.07	0.000	***	0.51	657	0.13	0.07	0.000	***	0.47	
France	5,101	0.08	0.03	0.006	***	0.47	4,594	0.11	0.03	0.000	***	0.48	4,320	0.11	0.03	0.000	***	0.47	
UK (ECHP)	3,457	0.23	0.03	0.000	***	0.50	2,564	0.32	0.04	0.000	***	0.53	2,028	0.34	0.04	0.000	***	0.53	
Ireland	4,014	-0.48	0.03	0.000	***	0.33	3,239	-0.41	0.03	0.000	***	0.35	2,725	-0.49	0.04	0.000	***	0.33	
Italy	6,734	-0.54	0.03	0.000	***	0.32	6,526	-0.56	0.03	0.000	***	0.32	6,301	-0.52	0.03	0.000	***	0.32	
Greece	4,058	-0.14	0.03	0.000	***	0.41	3,984	-0.23	0.03	0.000	***	0.39	3,599	-0.27	0.03	0.000	***	0.38	
Spain	6,518	-0.31	0.03	0.000	***	0.37	5,912	-0.44	0.03	0.000	***	0.35	5,512	-0.54	0.03	0.000	***	0.32	
Portugal	3,776	-0.25	0.03	0.000	***	0.39	3,778	-0.21	0.03	0.000	***	0.40	3,607	-0.22	0.03	0.000	***	0.39	
Austria							2,594	0.12	0.04	0.248		0.48	2,412	0.19	0.04	0.279		0.49	
Finland													2,668	0.33	0.04	0.000	***	0.52	
Sweden																			
Germany (SOEP)	4,758	0.08	0.03	0.000	***	0.47	4,798	0.01	0.03	0.000	***	0.45	4,466	-0.08	0.03	0.000	***	0.42	
Luxembourg PSELL II							2,518	-0.14	0.04	0.000	***	0.42	2,010	-0.14	0.04	0.000	***	0.41	
UK (BHPS)	2,809	0.23	0.03	0.000	***	0.50	2,776	0.14	0.03	0.000	***	0.49	2,722	0.10	0.03	0.000	***	0.47	
Constant		-0.21	0.01	0.000	***			-0.19	0.01	0.000	***			-0.23	0.01	0.000	***		
RESIDENCE																			
EUROPEAN UNION	43,557	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.42	41,284	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.41	38,369	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.40	
Germany (ECHP)																			
Denmark	1,395	0.61	0.05	0.000	***	0.57	1,198	0.62	0.06	0.000	***	0.57	1,069	0.73	0.06	0.000	***	0.58	
Netherlands	2,895	0.51	0.03	0.000	***	0.54	2,757	0.46	0.04	0.000	***	0.53	2,672	0.45	0.04	0.000	***	0.51	
Belgium	1,700	0.17	0.04	0.000	***	0.46	1,495	0.25	0.05	0.000	***	0.48	1,313	0.21	0.05	0.000	***	0.45	
Luxembourg PSELL I																			
France	3,887	0.13	0.03	0.000	***	0.45	3,224	0.23	0.03	0.000	***	0.47	2,955	0.19	0.04	0.000	***	0.45	
UK (ECHP)																			
Ireland	2,410	-0.45	0.04	0.000	***	0.31	2,158	-0.54	0.05	0.000	***	0.29	1,780	-0.53	0.05	0.000	***	0.28	
Italy	5,702	-0.43	0.03	0.000	***	0.32	5,275	-0.54	0.03	0.000	***	0.29	4,976	-0.57	0.03	0.000	***	0.27	
Greece	3,298	-0.26	0.03	0.000	***	0.36	2,914	-0.25	0.04	0.000	***	0.35	2,713	-0.28	0.04	0.000	***	0.34	
Spain	5,048	-0.57	0.03	0.000	***	0.29	4,548	-0.63	0.03	0.000	***	0.27	4,167	-0.64	0.03	0.000	***	0.26	
Portugal	3,483	-0.20	0.03	0.000	***	0.37	3,311	-0.25	0.04	0.000	***	0.36	3,197	-0.16	0.04	0.000	***	0.36	
Austria	2,197	0.18	0.04	0.149		0.46	1,974	0.12	0.04	0.006	***	0.44	1,781	0.13	0.05	0.000	***	0.43	
Finland	2,602	0.36	0.04	0.000	***	0.51	2,250	0.31	0.04	0.000	***	0.49	2,079	0.29	0.04	0.000	***	0.47	
Sweden							1,912	0.26	0.04	0.000	***	0.48	1,864	0.32	0.04	0.000	***	0.48	
Germany (SOEP)	4,158	-0.12	0.03	0.000	***	0.39	3,849	-0.15	0.03	0.000	***	0.38	3,581	-0.18	0.03	0.000	***	0.36	
Luxembourg PSELL II	2,163	0.02	0.04	0.435		0.42	1,878	0.03	0.04	0.714		0.42	1,815	0.00	0.05	0.001	***	0.40	
UK (BHPS)	2,619	0.06	0.03	0.000	***	0.43	2,541	0.07	0.04	0.000	***	0.43	2,407	1.22	0.04	0.000	***	0.69	
Constant		-0.33	0.01	0.000	***			-0.35	0.01	0.000	***			-0.404	0.01	0.000	***		

Source: Elaboration from the European Community Household Panel Survey waves 1994 to 1999

Table II. Explanatory model of the proportions of people aged 17-35 years living with a partner, by sex and age, according to country of residence and observational year

	1994				1995				1996			
	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Denmark	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.00			<i>ref.</i>	0.00			<i>ref.</i>
Germany (ECHP)	-0.47	0.07	0.000	***	-0.81	0.08	0.000	***	-1.08	0.08	0.000	***
Netherlands	-0.17	0.08	0.055	*	-0.30	0.08	0.321		-0.40	0.08	0.670	
Belgium	-0.22	0.08	0.029	**	-0.53	0.08	0.002	***	-0.60	0.09	0.010	***
Lux PSELL I	-0.19	0.11	0.098	*	-0.58	0.12	0.006	***	-0.80	0.12	0.003	***
France	-0.16	0.07	0.001	***	-0.46	0.07	0.000	***	-0.59	0.08	0.000	***
UK (ECHP)	-0.11	0.07	0.000	***	-0.34	0.08	0.000	***	-0.40	0.09	0.000	***
Ireland	-0.80	0.07	0.000	***	-1.09	0.08	0.000	***	-1.31	0.09	0.000	***
Italy	-1.11	0.07	0.000	***	-1.38	0.07	0.000	***	-1.56	0.08	0.000	***
Greece	-0.49	0.07	0.000	***	-0.99	0.08	0.000	***	-1.16	0.08	0.000	***
Spain	-0.86	0.07	0.000	***	-1.19	0.07	0.000	***	-1.43	0.08	0.000	***
Portugal	-0.63	0.07	0.000	***	-0.83	0.08	0.000	***	-0.93	0.08	0.000	***
Austria					-0.56	0.08	0.000	***	-0.69	0.09	0.000	***
Finland									-0.27	0.09	0.642	
Sweden												
Germany (SOEP)	-0.64	0.07	0.013	**	-0.90	0.07	0.024	**	-1.14	0.08	0.002	***
Lux PSELL II					-1.15	0.08	0.000	***	-1.24	0.09	0.000	***
UK (BHPS)	-0.33	0.08	0.000	***	-0.60	0.08	0.080	*	-0.72	0.09	0.111	
SEX(females)	0.80	0.02	0.000	***	0.76	0.02	0.000	***	0.77	0.02	0.000	***
AGE	1.36	0.03	0.000	***	1.32	0.03	0.000	***	1.35	0.03	0.000	***
AGE2	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***
Constant	-22.20	0.45	0.000	***	-21.58	0.45	0.000	***	-22.04	0.47	0.000	***
	1997				1998				1999			
	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.	Coeff.	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Denmark				<i>ref.</i>	0.00			<i>ref.</i>				<i>ref.</i>
Germany (ECHP)												
Netherlands	-0.31	0.09	0.139		-0.35	0.09	0.023	**	-0.47	0.09	0.646	
Belgium	-0.73	0.10	0.005	***	-0.61	0.10	0.019	**	-0.76	0.11	0.001	***
Lux PSELL I												
France	-0.71	0.08	0.000	***	-0.66	0.09	0.006	***	-0.80	0.09	0.000	***
UK (ECHP)												
Ireland	-1.38	0.09	0.000	***	-1.48	0.10	0.000	***	-1.60	0.11	0.000	***
Italy	-1.60	0.08	0.000	***	-1.65	0.08	0.000	***	-1.79	0.09	0.000	***
Greece	-1.22	0.08	0.000	***	-1.21	0.09	0.000	***	-1.34	0.09	0.000	***
Spain	-1.60	0.08	0.000	***	-1.67	0.08	0.000	***	-1.78	0.09	0.000	***
Portugal	-1.04	0.08	0.000	***	-1.06	0.09	0.000	***	-1.02	0.09	0.000	***
Austria	-0.88	0.09	0.000	***	-0.93	0.10	0.000	***	-1.01	0.10	0.000	***
Finland	-0.27	0.09	0.510		-0.32	0.10	0.017	**	-0.43	0.10	0.078	*
Sweden					-0.47	0.10	0.152		-0.54	0.10	0.013	**
Germany (SOEP)	-1.33	0.08	0.001	***	-1.33	0.09	0.000	***	-1.44	0.09	0.000	***
Lux PSELL II	-1.16	0.09	0.000	***	-1.07	0.09	0.000	***	-1.14	0.10	0.000	***
UK (BHPS)	-0.84	0.09	0.238		-0.76	0.09	0.597		-0.88	0.10	0.274	
SEX(females)	0.76	0.03	0.000	***	0.77	0.03	0.000	***	0.80	0.03	0.000	***
AGE	1.26	0.04	0.000	***	1.16	0.04	0.000	***	1.15	0.04	0.000	***
AGE2	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***
Constant	-20.86	0.50	0.000	***	-19.67	0.50	0.000	***	-19.44	0.52	0.000	***

Source: Elaboration from the European Community Household Panel Survey waves 1994 to 1999

Table III. Explanatory model of the proportions of people aged 17-35 years living with a partner, by sex and age, according to region of residence

	n	Coefficient	SE	p-value	sig.
DANISH PATTERN					
East Anglia (UK)	636	0.10	0.11	0.000	***
Central Finland	1,577	0.07	0.08	0.005	***
Denmark	9,035	0.00			<i>ref.</i>
East Midlands (UK)	1,552	-0.04	0.08	0.000	***
Yorkshire and Humberside (UK)	1,734	-0.19	0.07	0.000	***
Southern Finland	3,323	-0.22	0.06	0.327	
Northern Finland	950	-0.24	0.10	0.858	
Eastern France	2,461	-0.29	0.06	0.183	
Netherlands	17,656	-0.33	0.03	0.454	
Centre-Eastern France	2,805	-0.35	0.06	0.042	**
Sachsen (Germany)	1,958	-0.39	0.07	0.027	**
Norther France - Pas-de-Calais	1,843	-0.41	0.07	0.046	**
Western France	3,292	-0.42	0.05	0.002	***
Vlaams Gewest (Belgium)	4,870	-0.43	0.05	0.110	
Eastern Finland	1,457	-0.45	0.08	0.619	
MIDDLE TOP PATTERN					
West Midlands (UK)	1,678	-0.49	0.07	0.240	
Scotland (UK)	1,697	-0.50	0.07	0.892	
Helsinki area	2,260	-0.51	0.07	0.867	
Brandenburg (Germany)	1,044	-0.51	0.09	0.628	
Sweden	3,776	-0.53	0.05	0.000	***
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany)	779	-0.54	0.10	0.062	*
Bassin Parisien	4,394	-0.58	0.05	0.000	***
Région Wallonne (Belgium)	4,676	-0.59	0.05	0.000	***
Eastern Austria	4,414	-0.59	0.05	0.000	***
South-Wester France	2,341	-0.60	0.06	0.000	***
Açores (Portugal)	3,471	-0.62	0.05	0.000	***
Central Portugal	3,992	-0.64	0.05	0.000	***
Sachsen-Anhalt (Germany)	1,201	-0.65	0.08	0.087	*
South West (UK)	1,339	-0.69	0.08	0.013	**
Île de France	4,184	-0.70	0.05	0.000	***
Greece Irelands	2,416	-0.70	0.06	0.000	***
Algarve (Portugal)	1,898	-0.70	0.07	0.000	***
Mediterranean France	2,561	-0.76	0.06	0.000	***
Rheinland-Pfalz + Saarland (Germany)	1,400	-0.76	0.08	0.921	
Niedersachsen (Germany)	2,205	-0.80	0.06	0.055	*
Northern Greece	6,863	-0.81	0.04	0.000	***
Western Austria	3,776	-0.83	0.05	0.000	***
North West (UK)	1,773	-0.85	0.07	0.000	***
Northern Portugal	4,269	-0.86	0.05	0.000	***
Wales (UK)	895	-0.87	0.09	0.000	***
MIDLE BOTTOM PATTERN					
Northern UK	1,085	-0.90	0.08	0.000	***
Berlin (Germany)	974	-0.95	0.09	0.000	***
Ireland, excluding Dublin	10,967	-0.95	0.04	0.000	***
Alentejo (Portugal)	1,948	-0.96	0.07	0.000	***
Northern Ireland (UK)	96	-0.97	0.27	0.000	***
Southern Austria	2,671	-0.98	0.06	0.000	***

Table III. CONTINUATION

Schleswig-Holstein (Germany)	540	-1.01	0.12	0.021	**
Luxembourg	12,536	-1.01	0.04	0.000	***
South East (UK)	4,841	-1.02	0.05	0.000	***
Central Greece	4,847	-1.05	0.05	0.000	***
Canary Irlands	2,090	-1.08	0.06	0.000	***
Bayern (Germany)	3,460	-1.09	0.05	0.000	***
Hessen (Germany)	1,718	-1.10	0.07	0.003	***
Thüringen (Germany)	1,265	-1.10	0.08	0.000	***
Lisboa area	2,331	-1.12	0.06	0.000	***
Bremen (Germany)	169	-1.16	0.20	0.001	***
Eastern Spain	6,162	-1.17	0.04	0.000	***
Brussels area	1,280	-1.19	0.08	0.000	***
Athens area	6,090	-1.23	0.04	0.000	***
ITALIAN PATTERN					
North-western Spain	4,342	-1.32	0.05	0.000	***
Southern Spain	6,456	-1.32	0.04	0.000	***
Lombardia (Italy)	3,512	-1.35	0.05	0.000	***
Sicilia (Italy)	3,322	-1.38	0.05	0.000	***
Central Italy	3,639	-1.40	0.05	0.000	***
Madeira (Portugal)	2,719	-1.42	0.06	0.000	***
Northern-east Italy	4,050	-1.43	0.05	0.000	***
Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany)	4,855	-1.44	0.05	0.000	***
Southern Italy	5,569	-1.49	0.05	0.000	***
Dublin area	3,208	-1.50	0.06	0.000	***
Abruzzo-Molise	2,152	-1.52	0.06	0.000	***
Baden-Württemberg (Germany)	3,805	-1.54	0.05	0.000	***
Centre Spain	4,668	-1.56	0.05	0.000	***
Campania (Italy)	3,588	-1.58	0.05	0.000	***
Lazio (Italy)	2,342	-1.59	0.06	0.000	***
Madrid area	3,097	-1.60	0.06	0.000	***
Emilia-Romagna (Italy)	1,459	-1.62	0.07	0.000	***
North-western Italy	2,769	-1.64	0.06	0.000	***
North-eastern Spain	4,662	-1.66	0.05	0.000	***
Sardegna (Italy)	2,900	-2.02	0.06	0.000	***
Hamburg (Germany)	225	-2.11	0.17	0.000	***
SEX					
Male	130,680				
Female	132,180	0.78	0.010	0.000	***
AGE					
AGE		1.28	0.015	0.000	***
AGE SQUARE		-0.02	0.000	0.000	***
Constant		-21.20	0.204	0.000	***

Source: Elaboration from the European Community Household Panel Survey waves 1994 to 1999

Table IV. Explanatory model of the proportions of aged 17-35 years living with a partner, controlling by age, according to sex, country of residence and educational attainment

	Coefficient	S.E.	p-value	sig.								
Constant	-20.58	0.29	0.000	***								
AGE	1.18	0.02	0.000	***								
AGE2	-0.02	0.00	0.000	***								
Males												
	1st Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	2n Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	University	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Austria	0.00			ref.	0.22	0.11	0.003	***	0.54	0.18	0.000	***
Germany (ECHP)	0.32	0.14	0.000	***	-0.47	0.15	0.001	***	-0.51	0.22	0.011	**
Denmark	0.87	0.14	0.000	***	-0.19	0.15	0.098	*	-0.39	0.21	0.000	***
Netherlands	0.60	0.12	0.000	***	-0.18	0.13	0.030	**	-0.59	0.20	0.002	***
Belgium	0.57	0.13	0.000	***	-0.30	0.15	0.000	***	-0.76	0.20	0.000	***
Luxembourg PSELL I	0.84	0.16	0.000	***	-1.10	0.21	0.000	***	-1.03	0.27	0.000	***
France	0.43	0.11	0.000	***	-0.08	0.13	0.027	**	-0.67	0.19	0.000	***
UK (ECHP)	0.91	0.13	0.000	***	-0.38	0.15	0.003	***	-0.87	0.21	0.000	***
Ireland	-0.04	0.12	0.914		-0.22	0.13	0.005	***	-0.88	0.20	0.000	***
Italy	-0.23	0.11	0.423		-0.77	0.12	0.000	***	-1.41	0.19	0.000	***
Greece	-0.16	0.12	0.929		-0.44	0.13	0.000	***	-0.87	0.19	0.000	***
Spain	0.02	0.11	0.001	***	-0.94	0.12	0.000	***	-1.27	0.19	0.000	***
Portugal	0.21	0.11	0.000	***	-0.78	0.13	0.000	***	-0.93	0.21	0.000	***
Finland	0.34	0.15	0.000	***	0.28	0.17	0.306		0.03	0.23	0.632	
Sweden	0.18	0.23	0.049	**	-0.01	0.24	0.567		-0.25	0.29	0.125	
Germany (SOEP)	0.03	0.12	0.000	***	-0.44	0.13	0.000	***	-0.89	0.19	0.000	***
Luxembourg PSELL II	0.27	0.12	0.024	**	-0.64	0.14	0.000	***	-0.98	0.20	0.000	***
UK (BHPS)	0.58	0.12	0.000	***	-0.40	0.15	0.001	***	-0.73	0.19	0.000	***
Females												
	1st Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	2n Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	University	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Austria	1.20	0.13	0.000	***	-0.47	0.15	0.000	***	-1.35	0.23	0.000	***
Germany (ECHP)	-0.11	0.19	0.050	**	0.14	0.21	0.134		1.06	0.31	0.000	***
Denmark	-0.23	0.19	0.001	***	0.49	0.21	0.022	**	0.80	0.28	0.000	***
Netherlands	-0.27	0.15	0.000	***	0.31	0.17	0.031	**	1.23	0.26	0.000	***
Belgium	-0.26	0.17	0.000	***	0.14	0.20	0.002	***	1.11	0.27	0.000	***
Luxembourg PSELL I	-0.38	0.22	0.000	***	0.44	0.29	0.036	**	1.43	0.39	0.000	***
France	-0.36	0.15	0.000	***	0.25	0.17	0.005	***	1.23	0.24	0.000	***
UK (ECHP)	-0.86	0.17	0.000	***	0.95	0.20	0.000	***	1.54	0.27	0.000	***
Ireland	-0.61	0.15	0.000	***	0.38	0.18	0.001	***	1.19	0.26	0.000	***
Italy	-0.17	0.14	0.029	**	0.29	0.16	0.065	*	0.85	0.25	0.000	***
Greece	0.80	0.15	0.000	***	-0.27	0.17	0.183		0.37	0.25	0.021	**
Spain	-0.21	0.14	0.001	***	0.21	0.16	0.032	**	0.76	0.24	0.000	***
Portugal	-0.19	0.14	0.004	***	-0.19	0.18	0.924		0.73	0.27	0.000	***
Finland	-0.45	0.23	0.371		0.28	0.25	0.293		0.88	0.31	0.008	***
Sweden	-0.26	0.32	0.185		0.51	0.35	0.071	*	0.89	0.40	0.003	***
Germany (SOEP)	-0.46	0.15	0.000	***	0.60	0.17	0.000	***	1.46	0.25	0.000	***

Luxembourg	-0.53	0.16	0.002	***	0.21	0.18	0.019	**	1.10	0.27	0.000	***
PSELL II												
UK (BHPS)	-0.87	0.15	0.000	***	0.82	0.20	0.000	***	1.38	0.24	0.000	***

Table V. Explanatory model of the proportions of females full-time workers aged 17-35 years living with a partner, according to age, sex, country of residence and educational attainment

	<u>Coefficient</u>	<u>S.E.</u>	<u>p-value</u>	<u>sig.</u>				
Constant	-16.41	0.37	0.000	***				
AGE	0.93	0.03	0.000	***				
AGE2	-0.01	0.00	0.000	***				
	Males							
	Up to Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	University	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Austria	0.00			ref.	0.60	0.17	0.00	***
Germany (ECHP)	0.05	0.06	0.00	***	-0.42	0.21	0.09	*
Denmark	0.73	0.07	0.00	***	-0.45	0.20	0.00	***
Netherlands	0.60	0.05	0.00	***	-0.80	0.20	0.00	***
Belgium	0.49	0.07	0.00	***	-0.82	0.20	0.00	***
Luxembourg PSELL I	0.40	0.11	0.00	***	-0.76	0.27	0.00	***
France	0.55	0.05	0.00	***	-0.78	0.19	0.00	***
UK (ECHP)	0.73	0.07	0.00	***	-0.90	0.20	0.00	***
Ireland	-0.15	0.06	0.00	***	-0.96	0.20	0.00	***
Italy	-0.41	0.05	0.00	***	-1.01	0.20	0.00	***
Greece	-0.29	0.05	0.00	***	-0.76	0.19	0.00	***
Spain	-0.18	0.05	0.09	*	-1.00	0.18	0.00	***
Portugal	0.10	0.05	0.00	***	-0.93	0.22	0.00	***
Finland	0.59	0.07	0.00	***	-0.51	0.21	0.35	
Sweden	0.24	0.09	0.00	***	-0.46	0.23	0.06	*
Germany (SOEP)	-0.18	0.05	0.00	***	-0.84	0.19	0.00	***
Luxembourg PSELL II	-0.05	0.06	0.00	***	-0.88	0.20	0.00	***
UK (BHPS)	0.29	0.06	0.00	***	-0.69	0.19	0.00	***
	Females							
	Up to Secondary	S.E.	p-value	sig.	University	S.E.	p-value	sig.
Austria	0.29	0.07	0.00	***	-0.92	0.23	0.00	***
Germany (ECHP)	-0.06	0.10	0.35		1.10	0.30	0.00	***
Denmark	0.61	0.11	0.02	**	0.38	0.28	0.00	***
Netherlands	0.21	0.09	0.08	*	0.91	0.27	0.00	***
Belgium	0.25	0.12	0.50		0.78	0.27	0.00	***
Luxembourg PSELL I	-0.40	0.17	0.00	***	1.45	0.41	0.00	***
France	0.09	0.09	0.47		0.80	0.25	0.00	***
UK (ECHP)	0.09	0.11	0.03	**	0.82	0.28	0.00	***
Ireland	-0.45	0.09	0.01	***	1.19	0.27	0.00	***
Italy	0.02	0.08	0.49		0.78	0.27	0.00	***
Greece	0.38	0.09	0.00	***	0.82	0.26	0.00	***
Spain	-0.22	0.09	0.00	***	0.92	0.25	0.00	***
Portugal	0.21	0.08	0.07	*	0.71	0.29	0.01	***
Finland	-0.16	0.13	0.05	*	0.68	0.29	0.23	
Sweden	0.46	0.15	0.00	***	0.49	0.32	0.12	
Germany (SOEP)	-0.03	0.08	0.39		1.28	0.26	0.00	***
Luxembourg PSELL II	-0.49	0.09	0.12		1.24	0.27	0.00	***
UK (BHPS)	0.01	0.10	0.49		0.86	0.25	0.00	***

Source: Elaboration from the European Community Household Panel Survey waves 1994 to 1999