



Explaining parent-child proximity in Europe: a micro and macro perspective

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Outline

- Introduction
- General framework
- Hypotheses: micro and macro
- Data & Method
- Results
- Conclusions
- Further research plans



Introduction

- Relationship older parent – adult children important element of intergenerational relationships in ageing society
- Geographic proximity parent – adult children = opportunity structure intergenerational solidarity
- Geographic proximity = reflection of intergenerational solidarity (~ dependent variable)
(Tomassini et al., 2003; Hank, 2008)

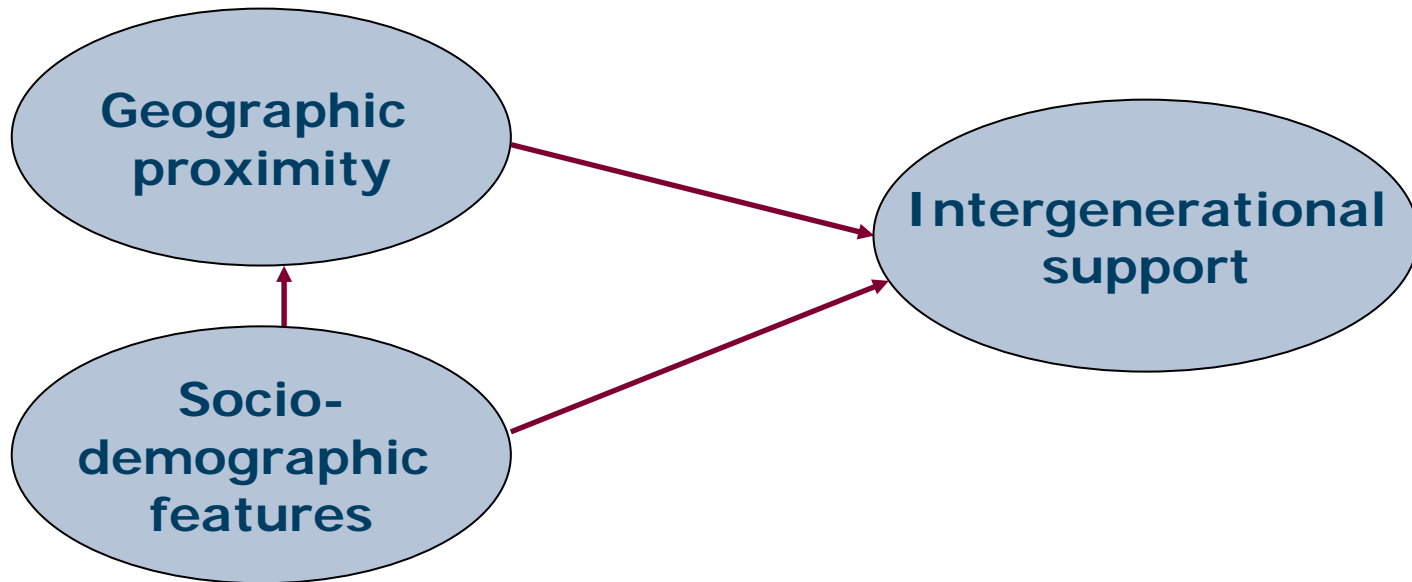


Introduction

- Geographic proximity knew some major changes during past decades (e.g. decline multigenerational households)
- *In addition:* families are changing in form and meaning
 - ⇒ Pessimistic view: *“Decline of the family”*
 - ⇒ Optimistic view: *“Intimate but distant relationships”* still providing support



General framework



- *First step:* Insight in the diversity in geographic proximity ~ necessary precondition to understand effect of geographic proximity on intergenerational support



(Potential) need support parent

(Potential) need support child

Life events parent(s)

Life events child

Normative solidarity

Control variables:

Socio-economic status

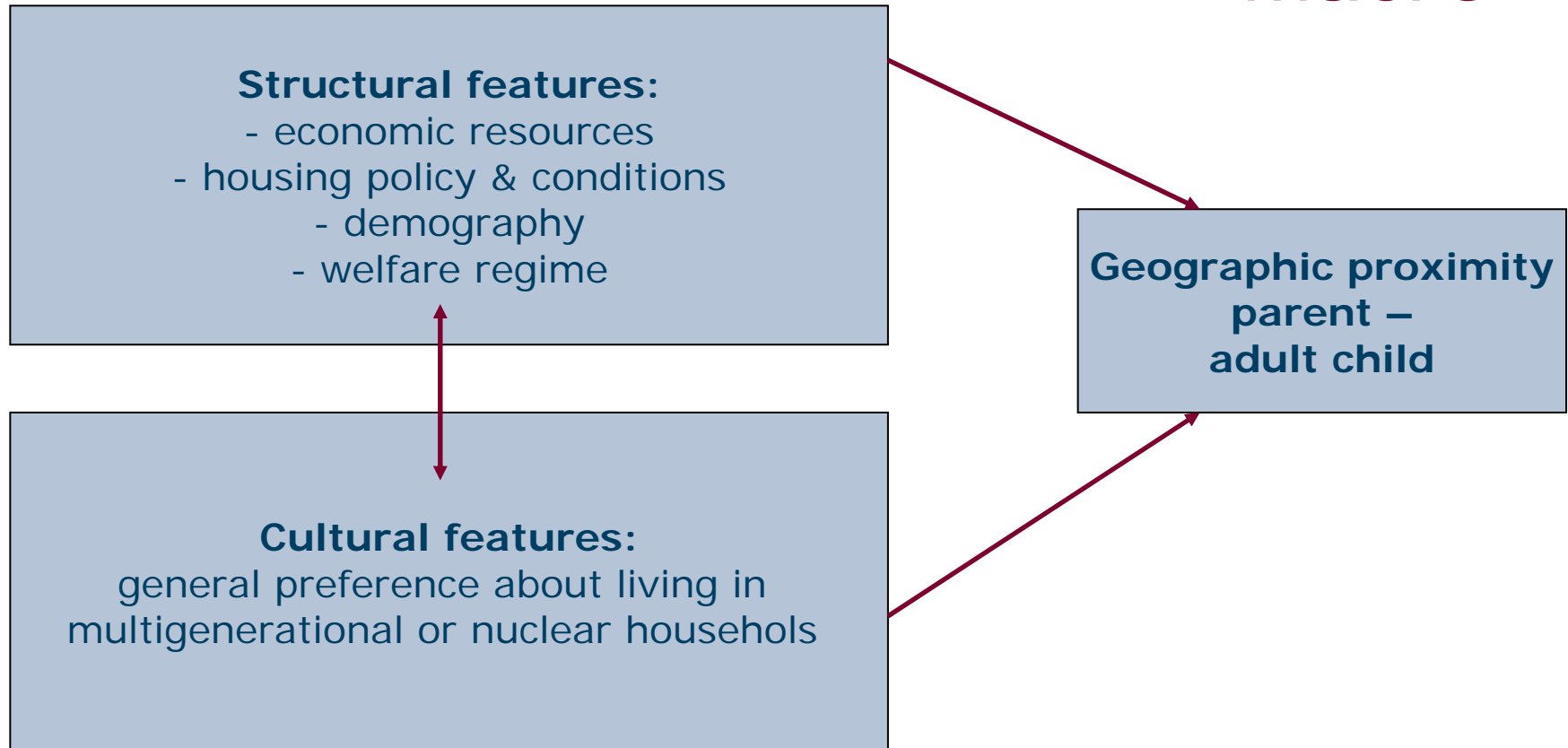
Demographic features

Micro

Geographic proximity
parent –
adult child



Macro





Macro

- In this study: data from GGS
 - comparison Western & Eastern Europe (France & Germany) vs. (Bulgaria, Georgia & Russia)
 - Structural features:
 - Economic resources & housing market:
Eastern Europe: post-socialist Europe → household extension as adaptive strategy ~ economic disruption (Ahmed et al., 2005)
 - Cultural features:
 - Eastern Europe ~ stronger family culture
 - Western Europe: preference for separate households



Macro

- Hypotheses
 - Higher prevalence of multigenerational hh in Eastern Europe
 - Optimistic vs. pessimistic view on intergenerational sol.
 - Optimistic view:
 - Western Europe: living separately *but* at a small distance
 - Western Europe: significant effects norms & need for support on geographic proximity

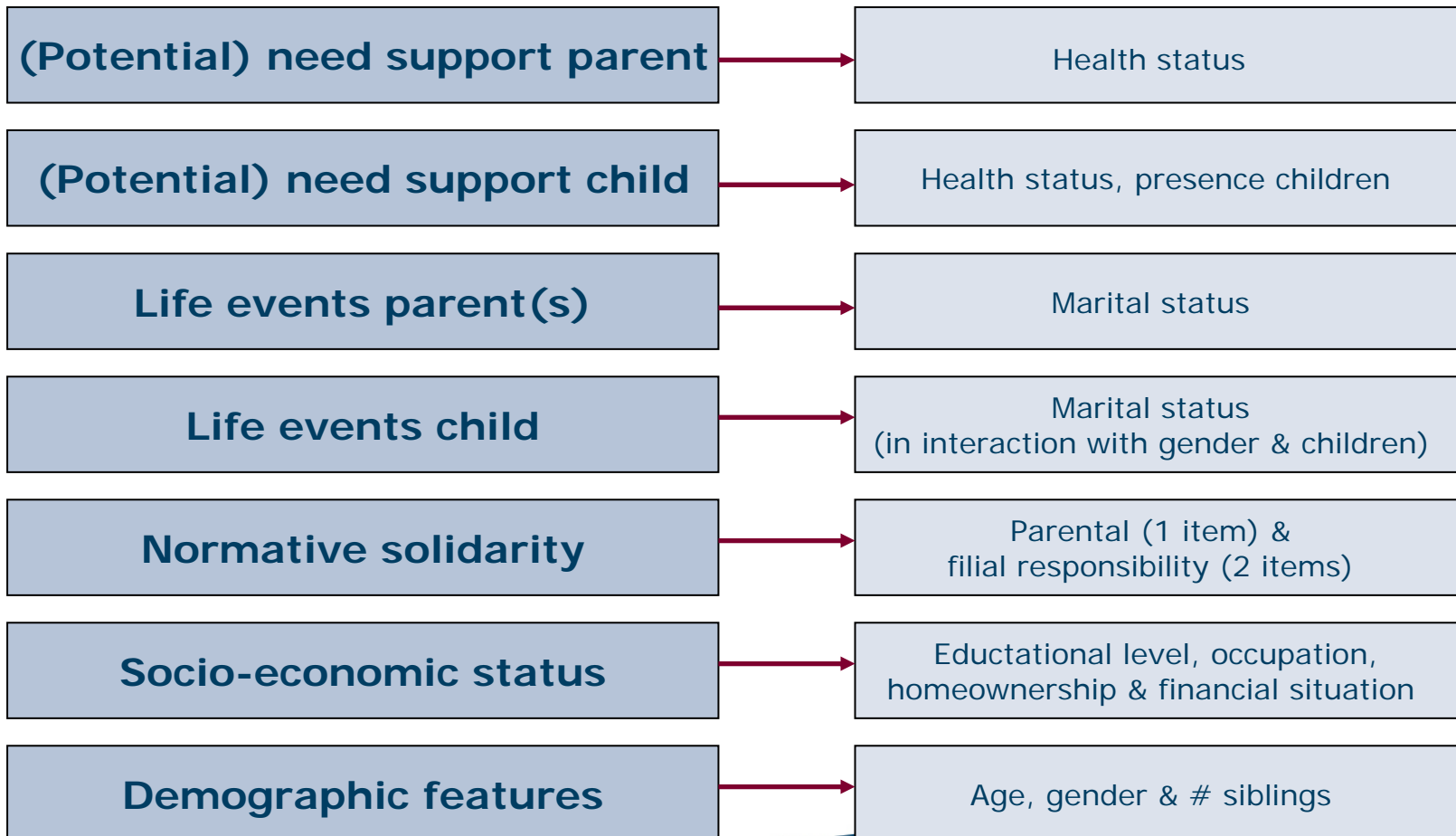


Data & Method

- Data: GGS
 - 5 countries
 - 18-79 years
 - Germany: geographic proximity not known when parents divorced → bias results, controlled for in multivariate analyses
- Method:
 - Multinomial logistic regression
 - Dependent: distance to mother (& father, results not shown)
 - Reference category: living within 10 minutes
 - Step 1: Each country separately
 - Step 2: Differences between countries



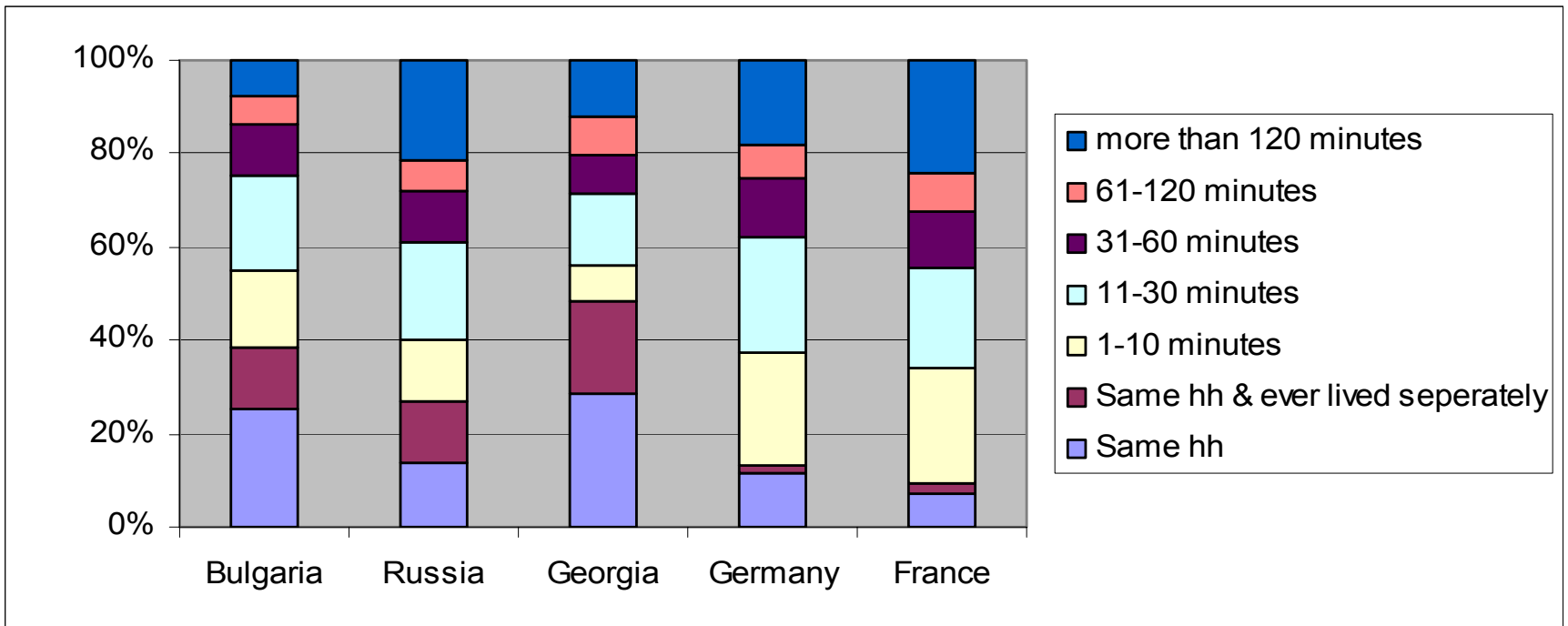
Data & Method





Results

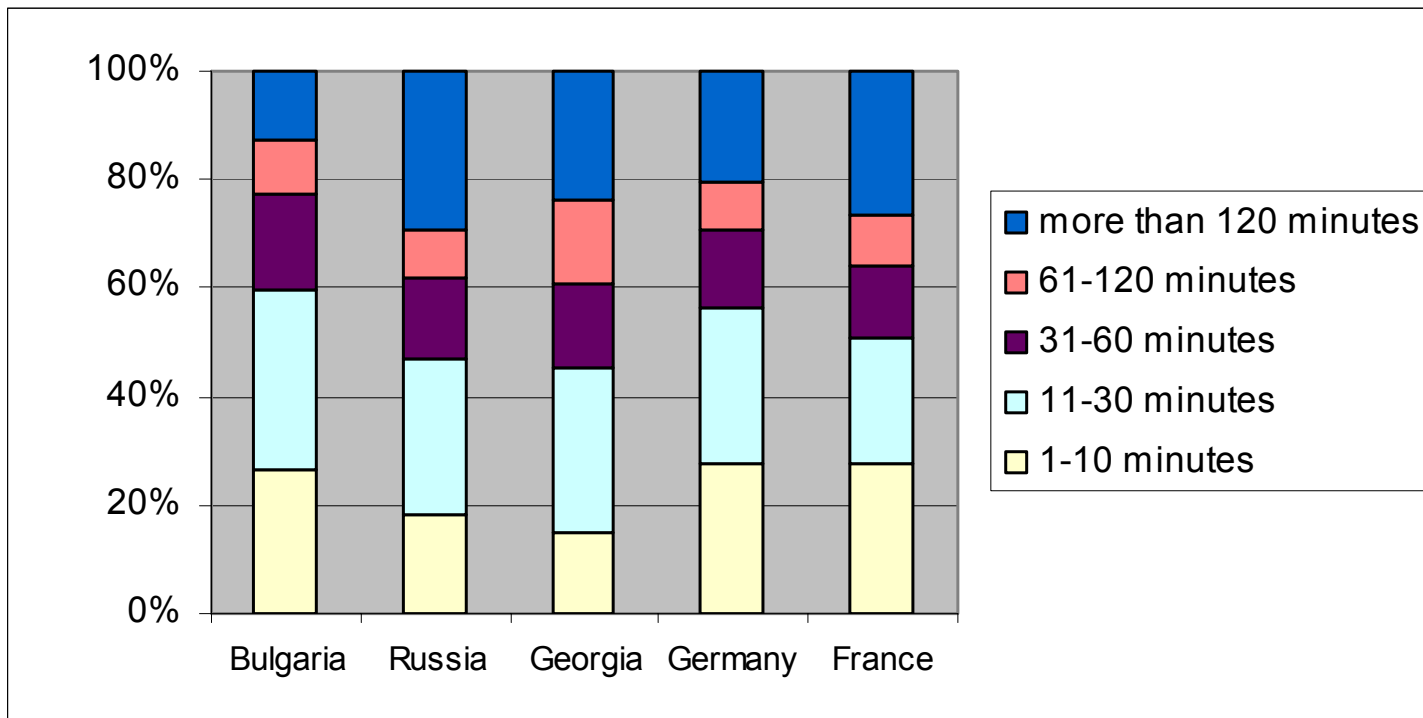
Table: Distance to mother





Results

Table: Distance to mother, living together not included





Results

- Multinomial logistic regression: some remarks
 - Odds-ratio's, only significant effects shown
 - Results shown for life events & norms
 - Effects of health status limited
 - Controlled for educational level, occupational status, financial situation hh, homeownership, age, gender & # siblings

			Bul.	Rus.	Ge.	Ger.	Fr.	
Living in same hh (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Marital status mother (ref. married)	Mother divorced		2,77			1,67	
		Mother widowed	1,97	0,05	1,47	0,40	0,07	
	(ref. couple with children)	Marital status & gender	Single parent & man	2,76	26,43			
			Single & man	17,41	13,30	10,28	6,34	27,84
			Stepfamily & man		0,20			
			Couple, no children & man	1,65		2,24		
			Single parent & woman	6,01	2,61	4,86		4,59
			Single & woman	83,90	14,78	150,76	12,68	35,17
			Stepfamily & woman					
Couple, no children & woman	2,98							
Living in same hh, lived seperately for > 3 months (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Marital status mother (ref. married)	Mother divorced		4,06	0,39		3,05	
		Mother widowed	1,87		1,45			
	(ref. couple with children)	Marital status & gender	Single parent & man	3,71	23,77			
			Single & man	20,70	15,07	8,98	16,08	28,08
			Stepfamily & man				6,84	
			Couple, no children & man	1,77		2,10		
			Single parent & woman	12,64	6,19	10,71		18,88
			Single & woman	75,82	11,31	87,22	122,18	80,28
			Stepfamily & woman		2,06	5,189		
Couple, no children & woman	3,19	1,99		17,20				

			Bul.	Rus.	Ge.	Ger.	Fr.	
Living 11-30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Marital status mother (ref. married)	Mother divorced						
		Mother widowed						
	(ref. couple with children)	Marital status & gender	Single parent & man					
			Single & man	1,75				
		Stepfamily & man					1,76	
		Couple, no children & man				1,63		
		Single parent & woman	0,55					
		Single & woman						
		Stepfamily & woman						
Couple, no children & woman								
Living more than 30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Marital status mother (ref. married)	Mother divorced	1,66				1,41	
		Mother widowed	1,21				0,80	
	(ref. couple with children)	Marital status & gender	Single parent & man					
			Single & man	2,45	2,41		1,58	1,38
		Stepfamily & man				2,08		
		Couple, no children & man				1,64		
		Single parent & woman						
		Single & woman	2,85	2,01		2,04		
Stepfamily & woman					1,74			
Couple, no children & woman			0,59					



Results

- Distance to father & marital status father:
 - In all countries: if not living together, greater distance
 - In Russia & France: higher odds to live with divorced father than living close by (within 10 minutes)

			Bul.	Rus.	Ge.	Ger.	Fr.
Living in same hh (ref. living within 10 minutes)	If adult children in need, parents should adjust lives (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree	0,63				
		Neither agree / nor disagree			1,88		
		Agree					
	Children's resp. for caring parents in need (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree			0,23		
		Agree					
	Children have parents to live with them (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree		0,44			0,48
		Neither agree / nor disagree	0,71	0,52			0,42
		Agree		0,58			
Living in same hh, lived seperately for > 3 months (ref. living within 10 minutes)	If adult children in need, parents should adjust lives (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree					
		Agree	1,47				
	Children's resp. for caring parents in need (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree			0,20		0,40
		Agree					0,60
	Children have parents to live with them (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree	0,54	0,48		0,27	0,50
		Neither agree / nor disagree	0,55	0,63			0,53
		Agree	0,77				

			Bul.	Rus.	Ge.	Ger.	Fr.
Living 11-30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	If adult children in need, parents should adjust lives (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree					
		Agree					
	Children's resp. for caring parents in need (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree	1,72		0,21		
		Agree	1,22	1,39			
	Children have parents to live with them (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree				1,86	1,37
		Neither agree / nor disagree				1,69	
		Agree				1,80	1,33
Living more than 30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	If adult children in need, parents should adjust lives (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree				0,53	
		Neither agree / nor disagree				0,47	
		Agree				0,61	
	Children's resp. for caring parents in need (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree					
		Neither agree / nor disagree				1,48	
		Agree				1,51	
	Children have parents to live with them (ref. strongly agree)	(Strongly) disagree				1,72	
		Neither agree / nor disagree				1,71	0,80
		Agree				1,51	



Results

	(ref. France)	Country	Country (controlling for other features)
Living in same hh (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Bulgaria	5,62	7,43
	Russia	3,72	3,79
	Georgia	13,26	22,59
	Germany	1,76	2,58
Living in same hh, lived seperately for > 3 months (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Bulgaria	9,64	13,80
	Russia	11,05	8,59
	Georgia	29,10	43,84
	Germany		
Living 11-30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Bulgaria	1,49	1,57
	Russia	1,84	1,91
	Georgia	2,36	2,68
	Germany	1,22	1,19
Living more than 30 minutes from mother (ref. living within 10 minutes)	Bulgaria	0,85	1,22
	Russia	1,62	1,87
	Georgia	2,04	2,61
	Germany	0,89	0,83



Conclusions

- Family constellation ~ geographic proximity
 - Marital status mother & father:
 - Precarious situation divorced fathers (& mothers in France and Bulgaria)
 - *Remark: no results for Germany*
 - Family constellation adult child
 - + Single parents, specifically mothers more often live with & live close to their mother – not in Germany
 - Stepfamilies tend to live further away in France & Germany:
 - Germany: Men
 - France: Men & Woman
 - *Remark: proportion low in all countries, specifically Russia*

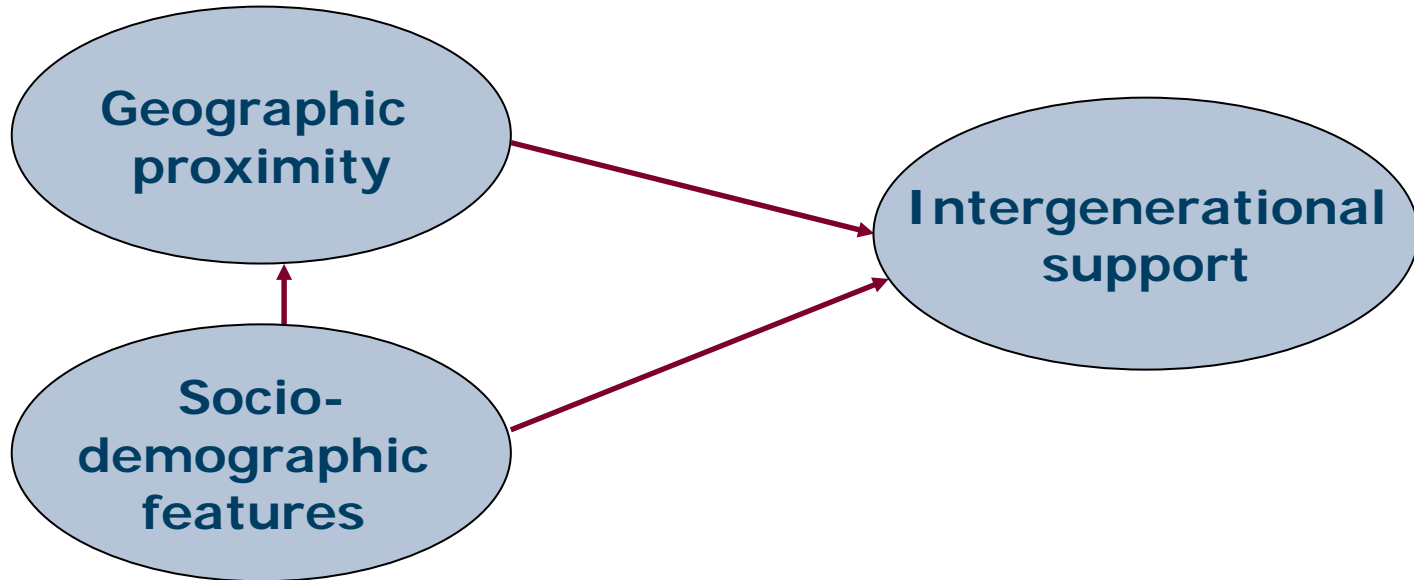


Conclusions

- Optimistic vs. pessimistic scenario
 - More multigenerational hh in Eastern Europe
 - + If not living together: living at a smaller distance in France & Germany
 - + In France & Germany: family norms affect geographic proximity (~ changed sol.)
- ⇒ Western Europe: different, but intact opportunity structure for intergenerational support



Further research plans



- *Next step:* intermediate effect of geographic proximity (SEM) + data from Italy & Norway



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