

The logo for NIDI (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute) features the letters 'N', 'i', 'D', and 'i' in a stylized, black, serif font. The letters are arranged in a slightly staggered manner, with the 'i's being smaller than the 'N' and 'D'. A thin black line forms a partial square around the letters, with a dashed line extending from the bottom-left corner.

Netherlands Interdisciplinary
Demographic Institute

www.nidi.nl

Filial obligations in a cross- national perspective

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The logo for the Generations & Gender Programme (GGP) consists of the letters 'G', 'G', and 'P' in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are arranged in a slightly staggered manner, with the 'G's being larger than the 'P'. A white curved line sweeps under the letters from the bottom-left to the top-right.

Generations & Gender
Programme

*How generations and gender shape demographic change
Geneva, 14-16 May 2008*

N i D i Why focus on personal norms such as family obligations?

- To assess whether policy measures are in keeping with people's attitudes
- To develop policies that consider people's preferences
- Family obligations say something about a country's cultural climate, and about individual circumstances



Research questions

- Descriptive, i.e. how strong are people's feelings of obligation in different countries
- Explanatory, i.e. variations in feelings of family obligation by social-structural circumstances and cultural background

N i D i

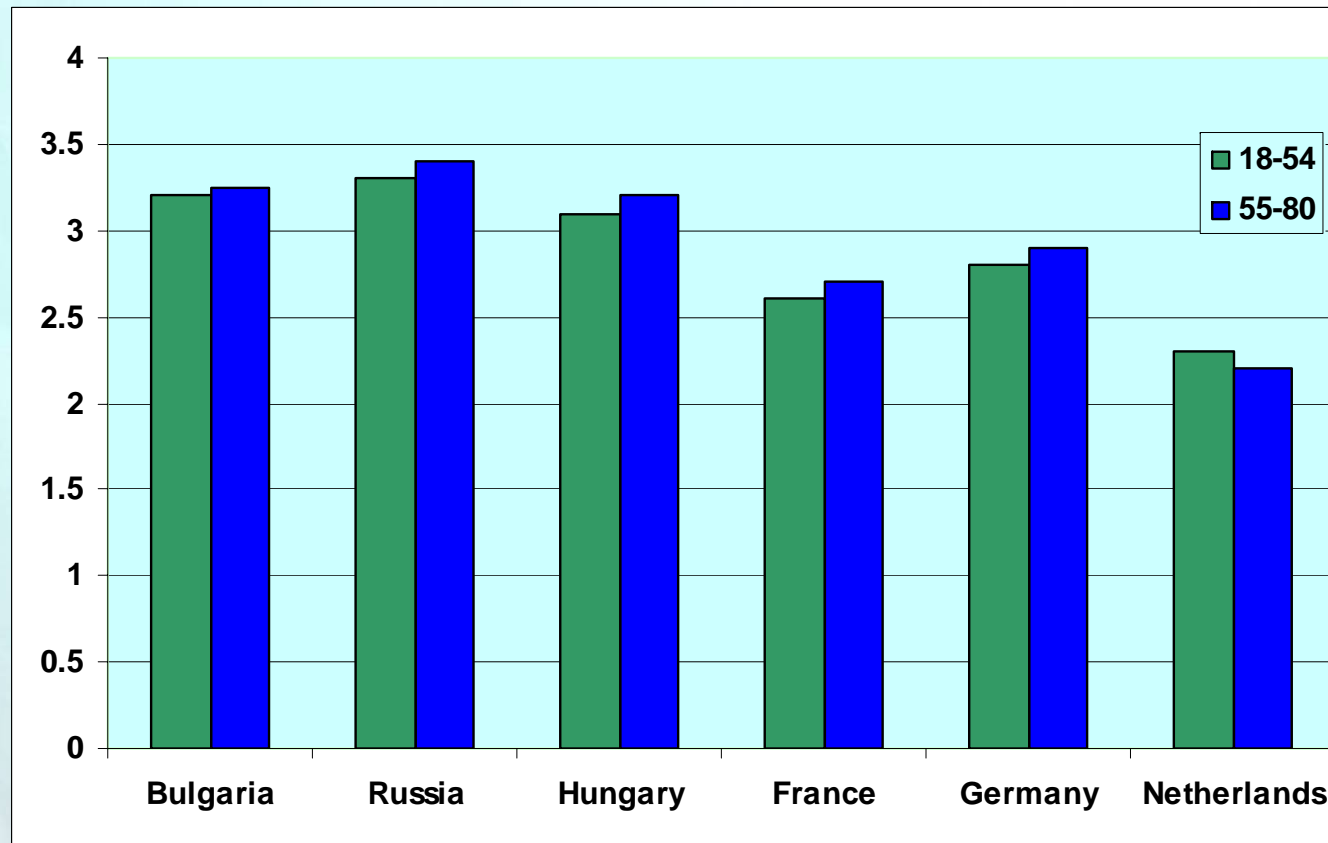
Two measures

- Caring for needy parents is children's responsibility (unconditional)
- Children should adjust their working lives to the needs of parents (conditional)

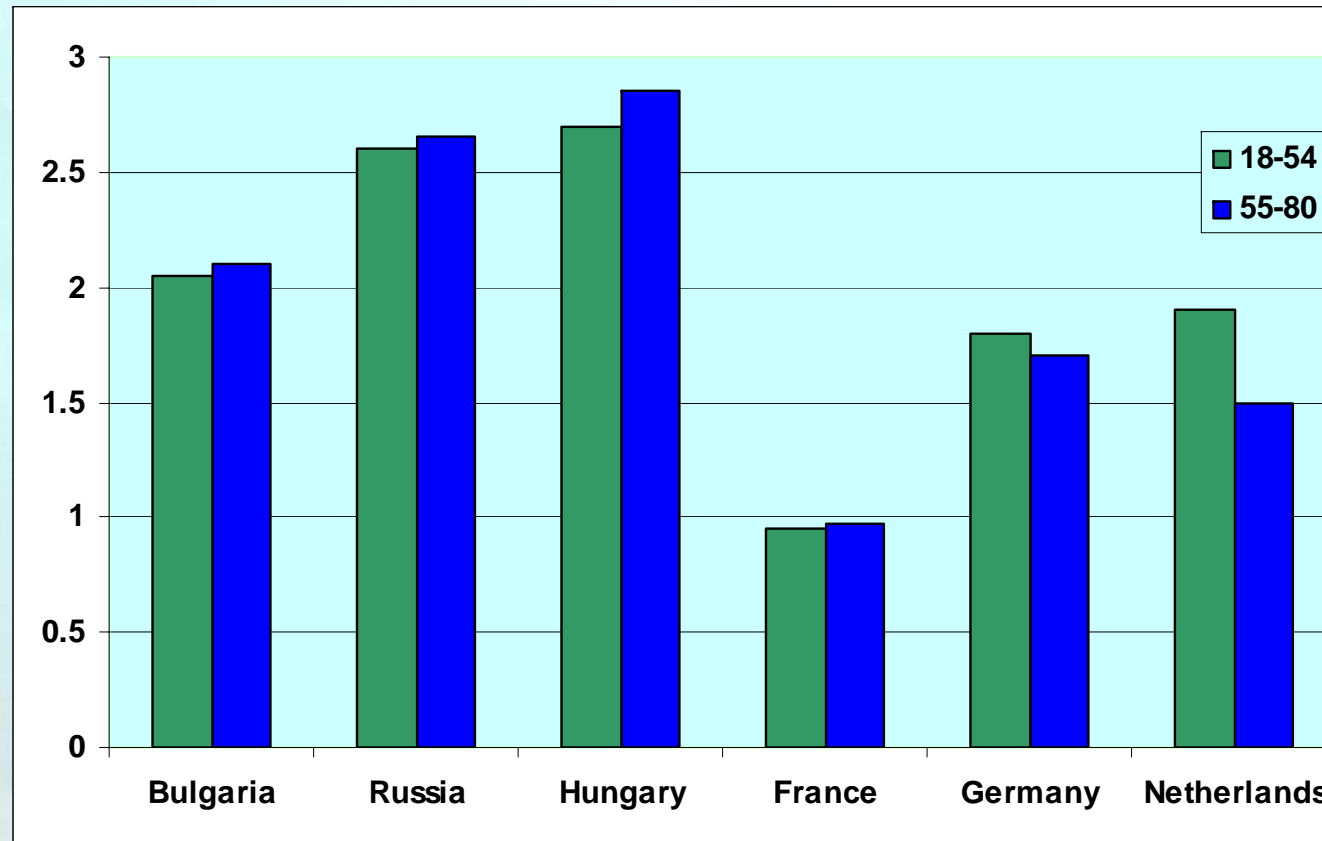
Data from six countries (Bulgaria, Russia, Hungary, France, Germany, Netherlands)

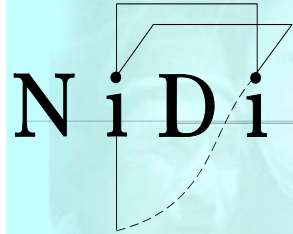


N i D i Children should take responsibility for caring for their parents when their parents are in need



N i D i Children should adjust their working lives to the needs of parents



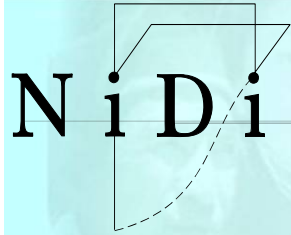


Differences in family obligations (adjust working lives) by social-structural circumstances and cultural background (OLS-regression)

Female	-0.06*
Age	-0.00
No education	0.62**
Secondary	0.15**
General vocational (ref.)	0.00
Higher / university	-0.03
Consensual union	-0.10***
Married	0.03
Single (ref.)	0.00
Fulltime job	-0.05**
Parttime job	0.04
Jobless (ref.)	0.00

continued ...





Differences in family obligations (adjust working lives) by social-structural circumstances and cultural background (OLS-regression)

Parent(s) alive	0.03
# of siblings	0.02*
# of children	-0.04**
Bulgaria	0.27***
Russia	0.87***
Hungary	1.01***
Germany (ref.)	0.00
France	-0.86***
Netherlands	-0.02*

NB. The analyses took clustering of individuals in countries into consideration.



- East – west divide (caution to extrapolate findings based on western populations)
- Large country differences other than differences in population composition
- Future analyses: GGP contextual database
- Future analyses: how well do feelings of family obligation predict exchanges of support