



Bundesinstitut  
für Bevölkerungsforschung

# Federal Institute for Population Research

[www.bib-demographie.de](http://www.bib-demographie.de)

## Cross-national comparison of the availability of familial support for elderly people

A Comparative analysis of GGS Data from  
Bulgaria, France, Germany and Russia

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GGP

Generations & Gender  
Programme

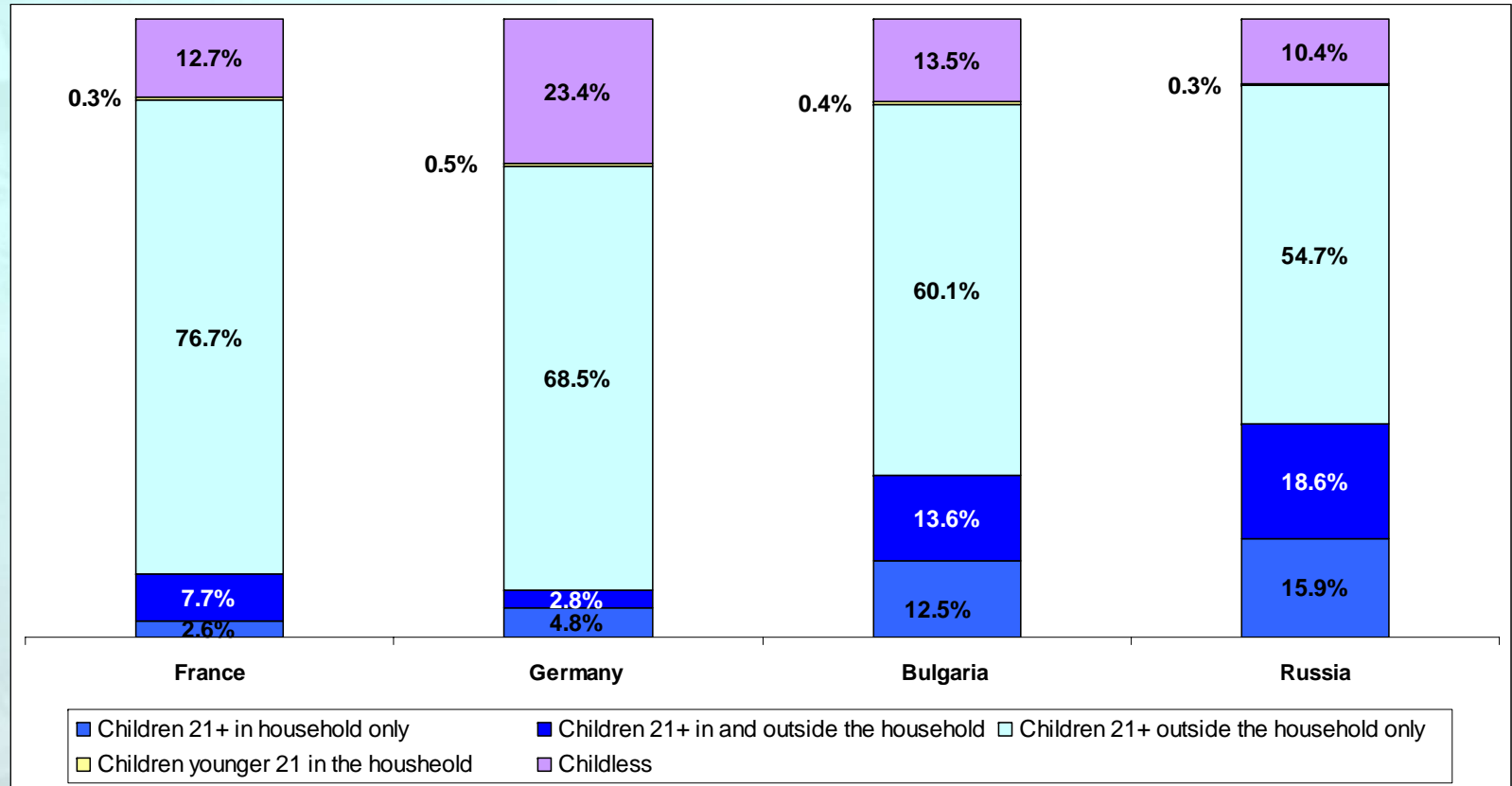
*How generations and gender shape demographic change  
Geneva, 14-16 May 2008*

# Premises for good possibilities of support for elderly people by adult children

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- no childlessness of the respondents
- respondents are living together with their adult children
- if they are not living together:
  - the distance to the home of adult children is short
  - they meet with adult children frequently

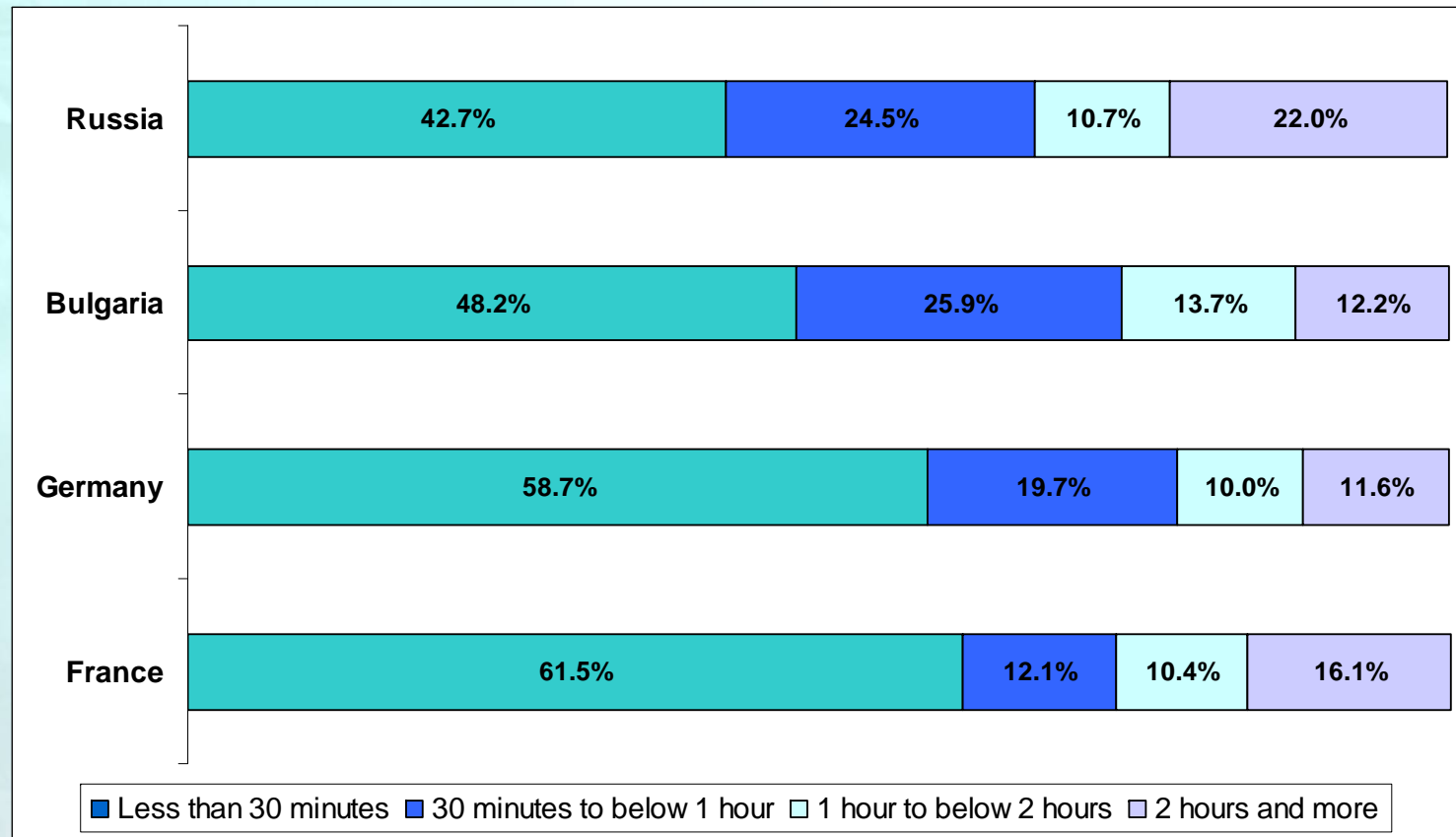
# Where are the adult children (21+) of 60+ respondents living?



Sources: GGS-Germany 1.1, GGS-Russia 1.1, GGS-France 1.2, GGS-Bulgaria 1.1

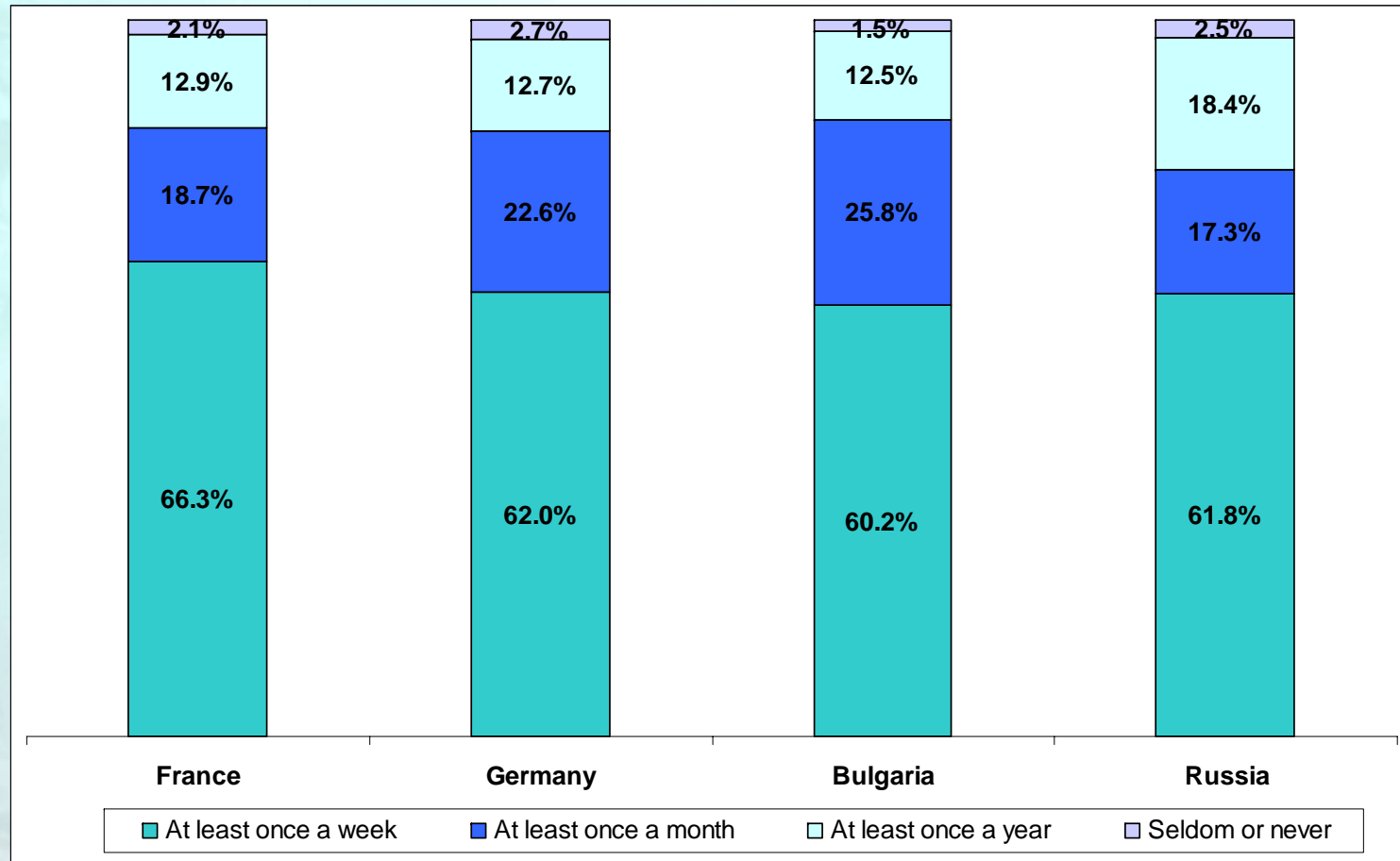


# Distance (in time) of non-resident children (21+) to the 60+ respondents



Sources: GGS-Germany 1.1, GGS-Russia 1.1, GGS-France 1.2, GGS-Bulgaria 1.1

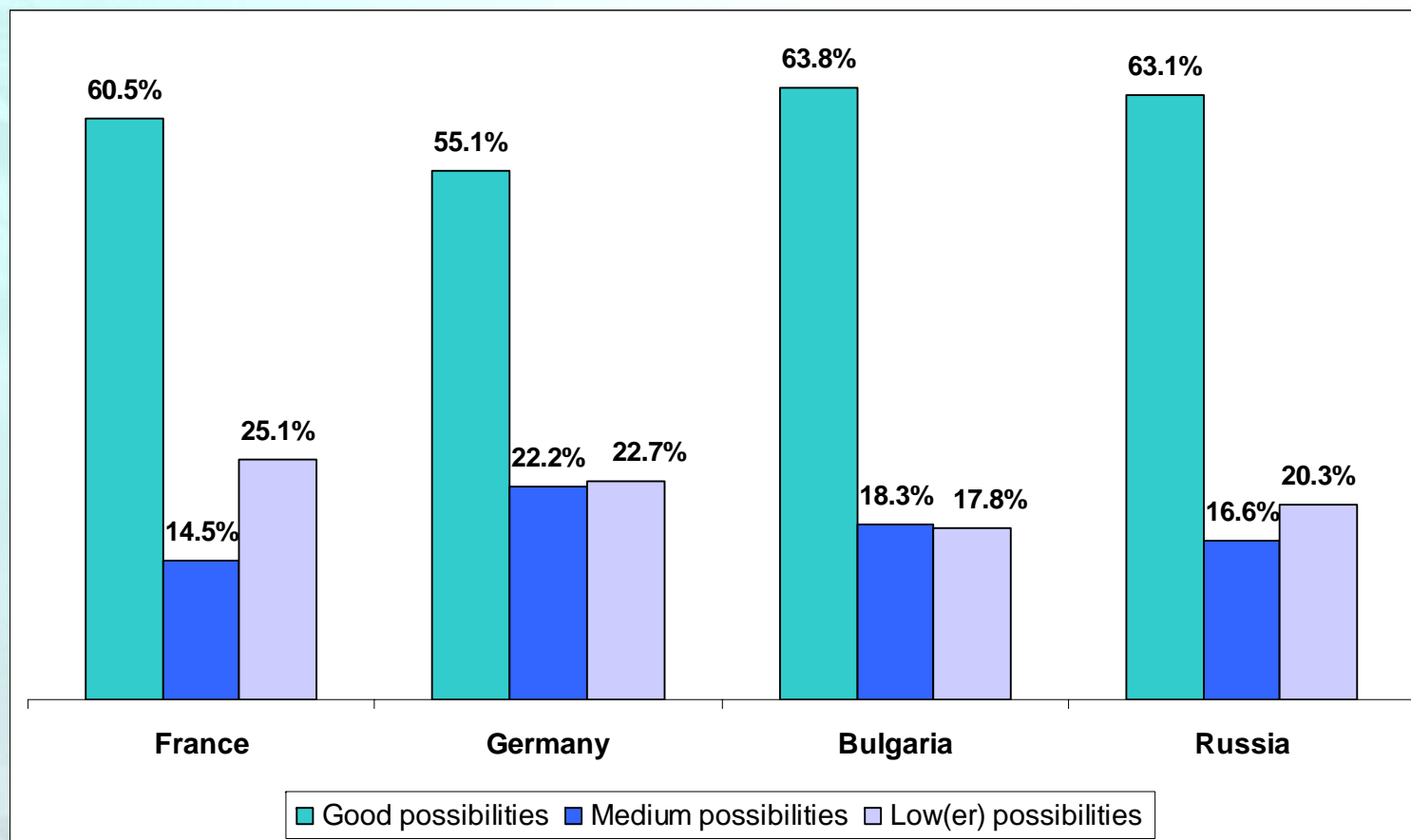
# Frequency of meetings of respondents 60+ with their adult children (21+)



Sources: GGS-Germany 1.1, GGS-Russia 1.1, GGS-France 1.2, GGS-Bulgaria 1.1

*How generations and gender shape demographic change*  
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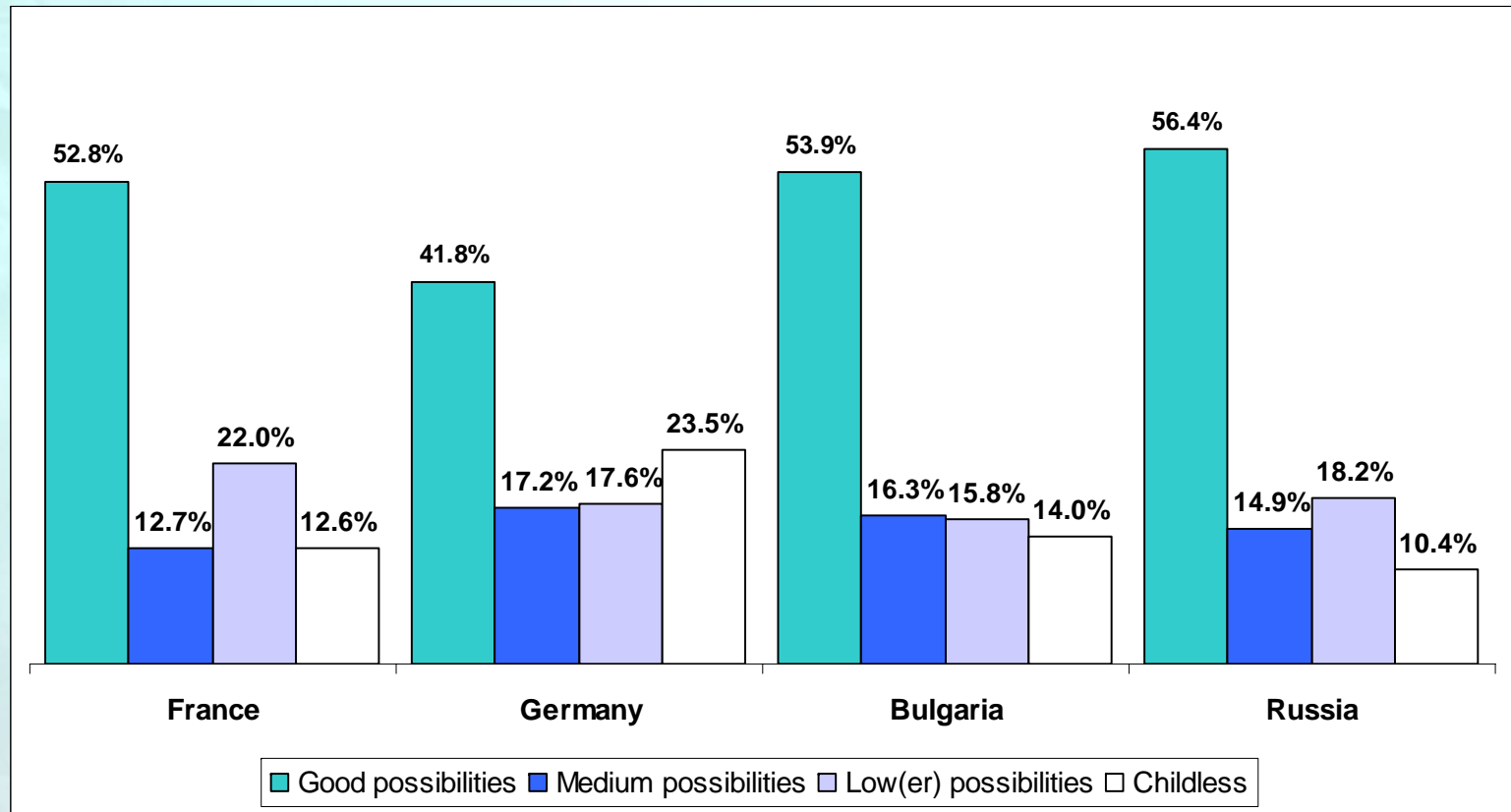
## Summarized: Possibilities for support by own children (without childless respondents)



Sources: GGS-Germany 1.1, GGS-Russia 1.1, GGS-France 1.2, GGS-Bulgaria 1.1



# Summarized: Possibilities for support by own children (including childless respondents)



Sources: GGS-Germany 1.1, GGS-Russia 1.1, GGS-France 1.2, GGS-Bulgaria 1.1

# Impact of individual variables on the „good possibilities“ for support

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For each country under study we analyzed the impact of:

- Gender of the respondent 60+
- Gender of the oldest respondent's child
- Subjective assessment of the respondent's economic situation
- Region where respondents live: urban or rural



# Impact of individual variables on the „good possibilities“ for support

The most significant „positive“ impacts for each country

- **France**  
*Subjective assessment of the respondent's economic situation: Respondents assessing their situation as difficult have more often „good possibilities“ for support by their own children*
- **Germany**  
*Region: Respondents in (more) rural areas have more often „good possibilities“ for support by their own children*
- **Bulgaria**  
*Region: Vice versa to Germany - respondents in urban areas have more often „good possibilities“ for support by their own children*
- **Russia**  
*No highly significant impacts from the selected variables. Slight impacts by gender of respondent (mother) and gender of oldest child (daughter)*



# Conclusions

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- In the four countries a large majority of elderly respondents have good possibilities to get support by their adult children (if they have children). The differences between the countries are low. It is relatively lower in Germany – especially by looking at the high percentage of childless respondents there.
- In Bulgaria and Russia the “good possibility” is caused by the higher number of co-resident adult children. In France and Germany the higher number of non-resident adult children is balanced by their closer distance (in time).
- The frequency of meetings with non-resident adult children is not significantly different between France, Germany, Bulgaria and Russia.
- The impact of individual variables is different between countries (but also has to be analysed more detailed)

