



UNECE

# Antecedents of gender inequality in household work among Italian couples

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**Work Session on Gender Statistics**

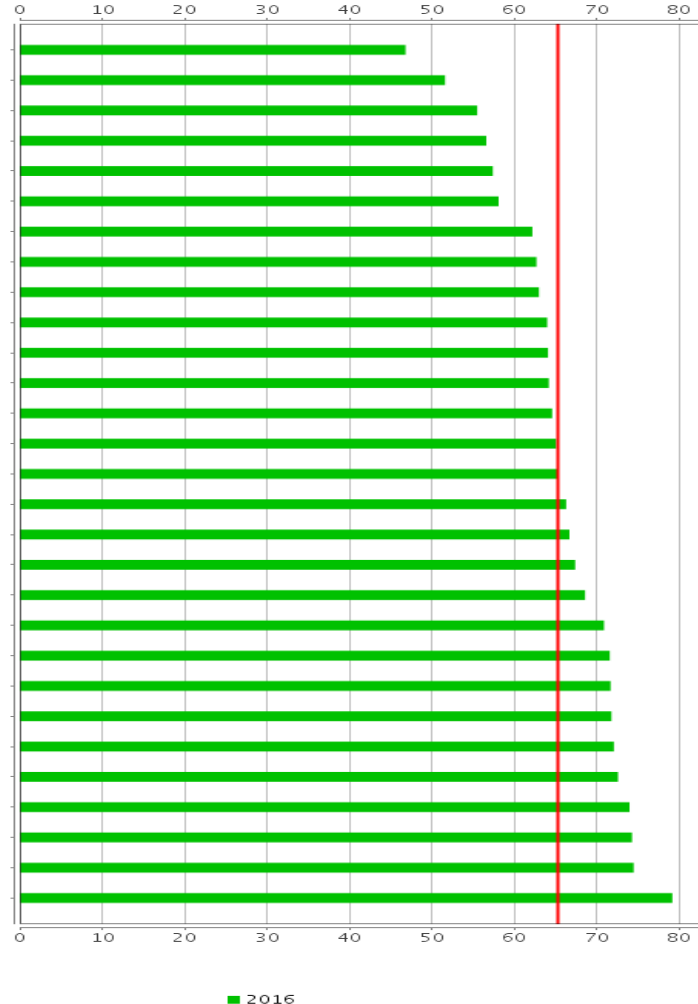
Belgrade, 29 November – 1 December 2017

# GENDER GAP IN PAID WORK

Employment rate by sex

%  
Females

...in Italy there is still a problem with gender roles!



In the last 11 years (2005-2016), female employment rate in the EU28 has risen from 60% to 65.3%, but in 2016 the gender gap in employment is still 11.6 percentage points.

Only the North European countries are close to the *EU2020* employment target of 75% for both men and women.

In contrast in **Greece** and **Italy** female employment rates are the lowest in the *EU28*, 46.8% and 51.6% respectively.

Source of Data Eurostat

Last update: 15.06.2017

Date of extraction: 23 Jun 2017 12:44:25 CEST

Hyperlink to the graph: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/eurostat/tgm./drawGraph.do?init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tesem010&toolbox=legend>

Disclaimer: This graph has been created automatically by Eurostat software according to external user specifications for which Eurostat is not responsible. Graphic included

General Disclaimer of the EC website: [http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal\\_notices\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal_notices_en.htm)

Short Description: The employment rate of the total population is calculated by dividing the number of person aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The employment rate of men is calculated by dividing the number of men aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total male population of the same age group. The employment rate of women is calculated by dividing the number of women aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total female population of the same age group. The indicators are based on the EU Labour Force Survey.

Code: tesem010

# GENDER GAP IN UNPAID WORK

...in Italy there is still a problem with gender roles!

Women devote significantly more time to household work than men almost anywhere in the world.

This type of work is essential for the quality of life, but the way it is shared between women and men is a major source of gender inequality.

According to the data from national time use surveys, **women in Portugal, Italy and Ireland carry out more than 70% of the unpaid work.**

An equal sharing of this work would certainly impact on women's career opportunities.

Minutes per day, latest available year

Select a series to compare countries

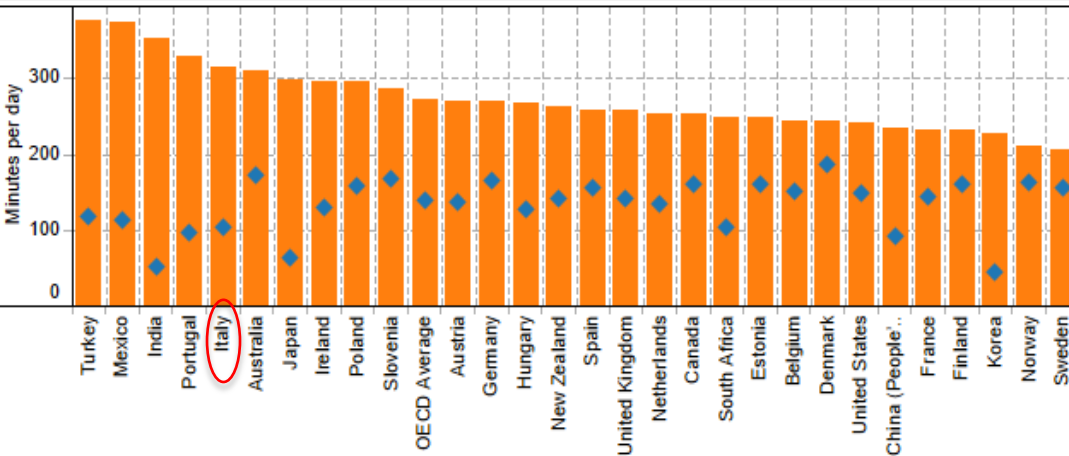
Unpaid work

Select a country to compare all series

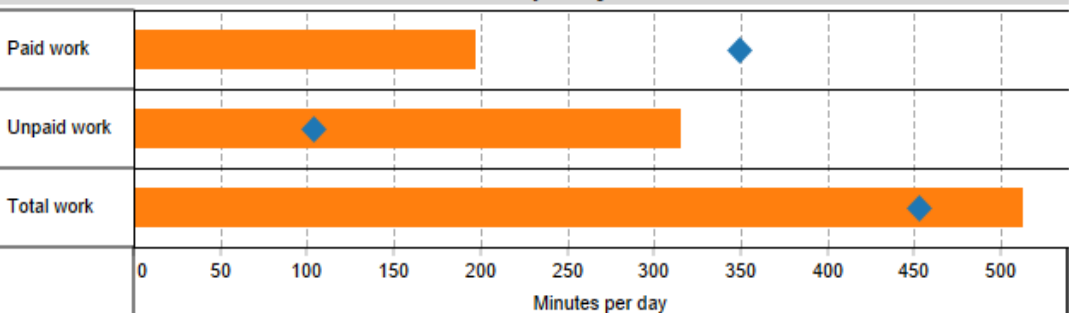
Italy

Sex ■ Men ■ Women

Time spent in: **Unpaid work**



Country: **Italy**

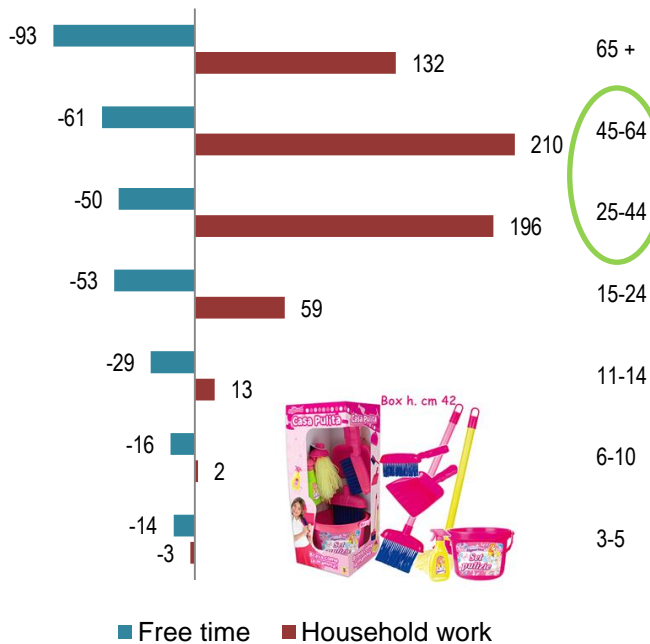


OECD Secretariat estimates based on national time-use surveys

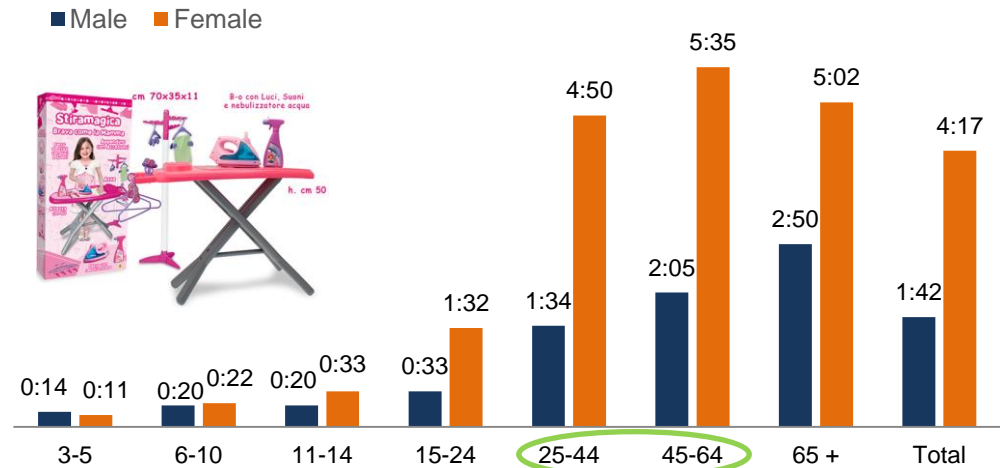
# THE ITALIAN CASE: GENDER GAP BEGINS IN CHILDHOOD

Already in childhood, **more household work** and **less free time** for girls than boys. But it is between 25 and 64 that gender gap is more pronounced.

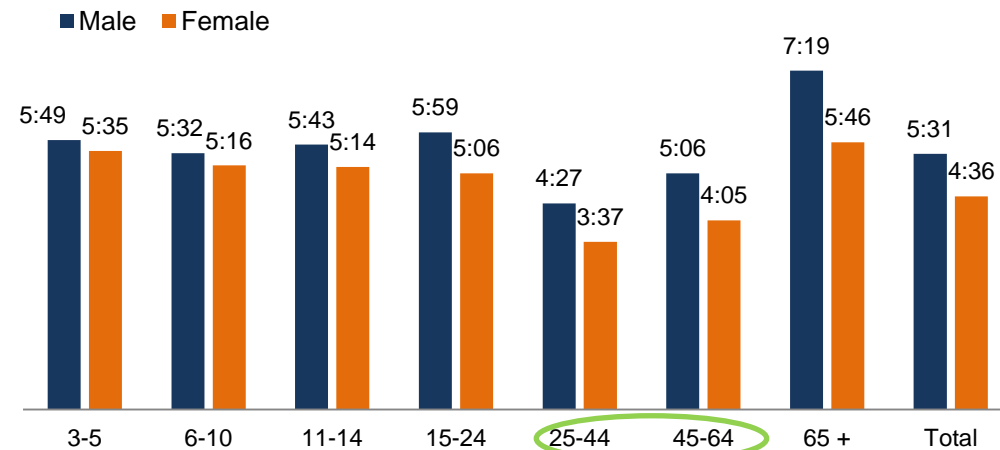
**Gender gap (F-M) in Household work and Free time**  
Year 2013-2014, in minutes



**Time spent in: Household work**  
Year 2013-2014, in hours and minutes



**Time spent in: Free time**  
Year 2013-2014, in hours and minutes



# THE ITALIAN CASE: GENDER GAP INCREASES IN ADULTHOOD

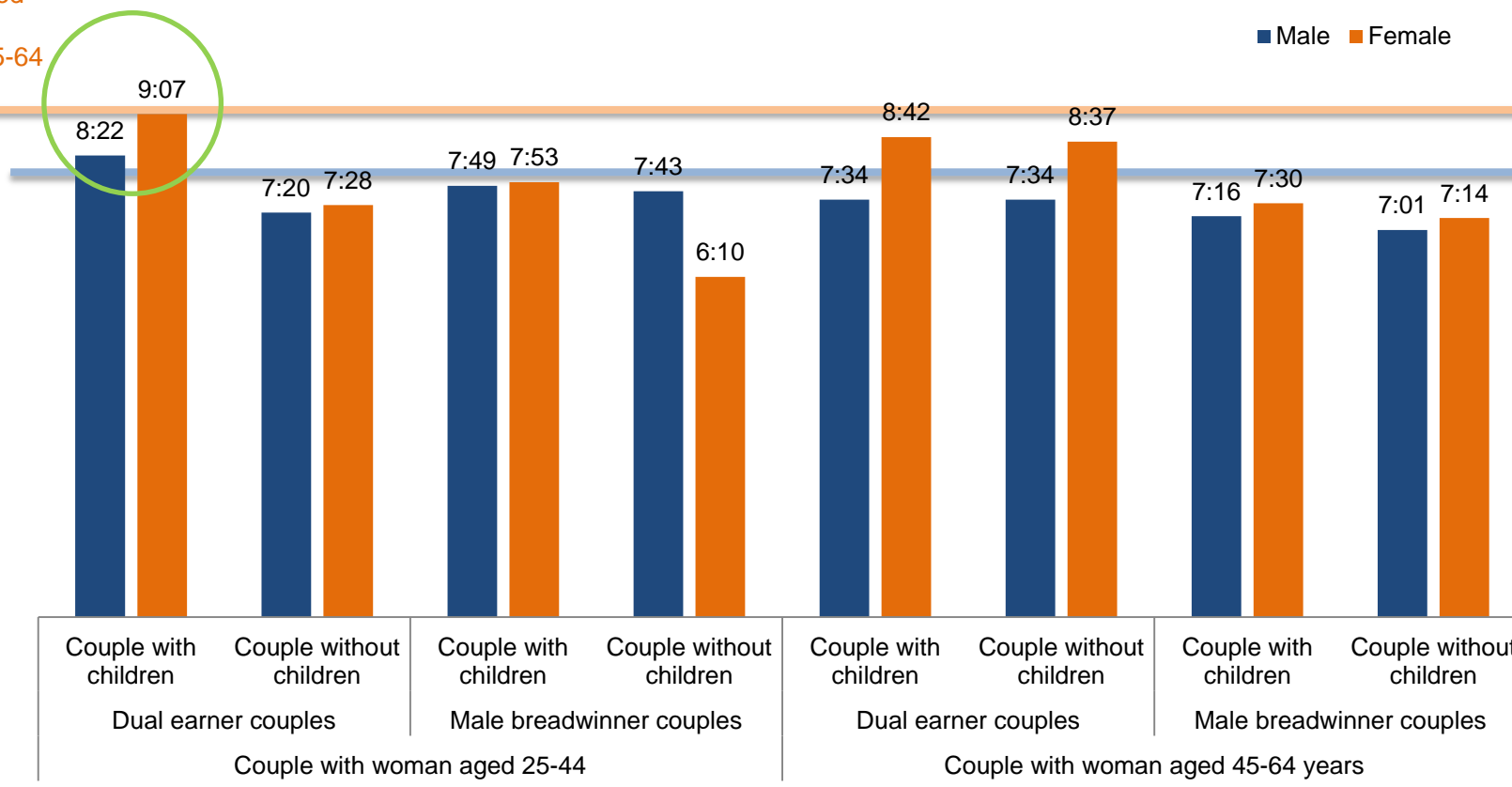
Total workloads are not uniform across all types of adults. Conciliation of life times is more difficult for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples

Time spent in: **Total work**  
(paid work and household work)

■ Male ■ Female

Average time for employed men aged 25-64  
7:28

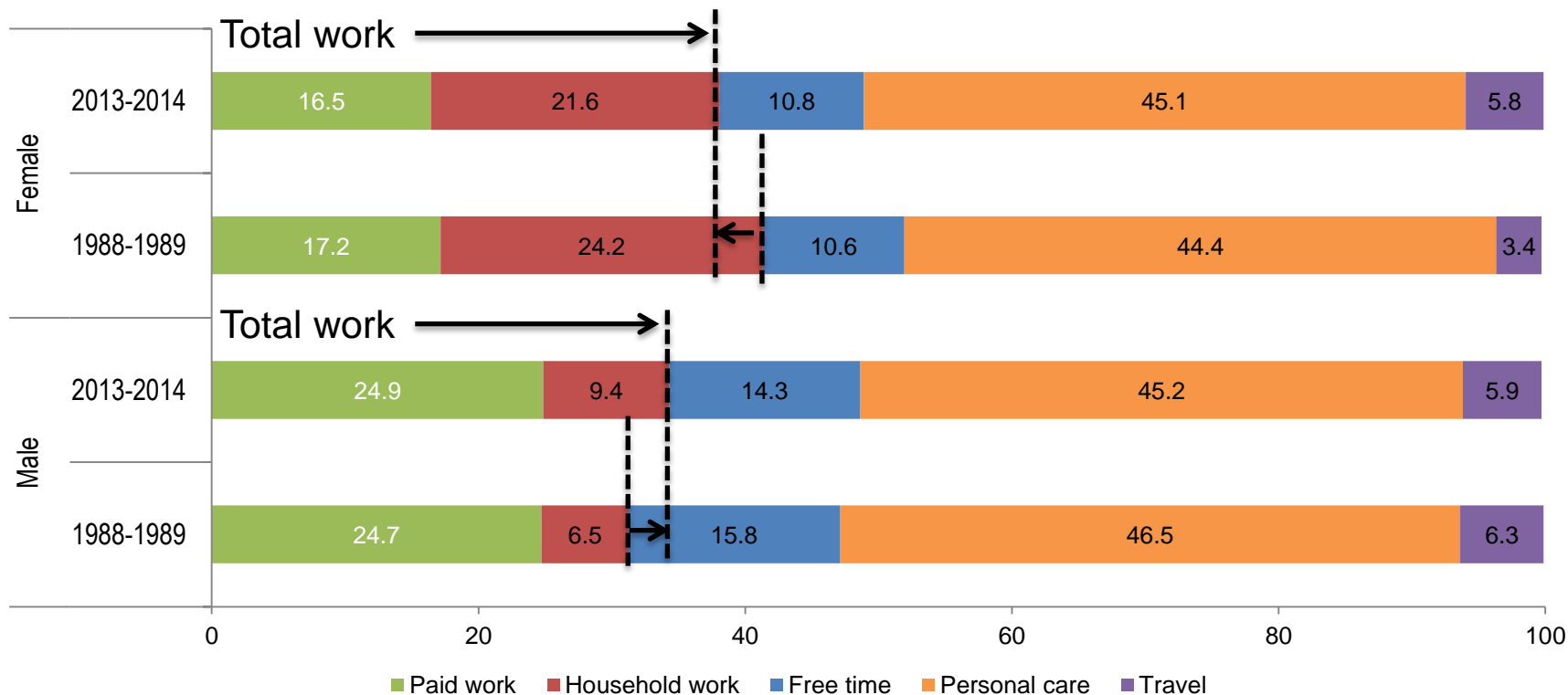
Average time for employed women aged 25-64  
8:26



# THE ITALIAN CASE: MAIN CHANGES IN THE LAST 25 YEARS

## The time budget for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples

Years 1988-1989, 2013-2014, % of 24 hours

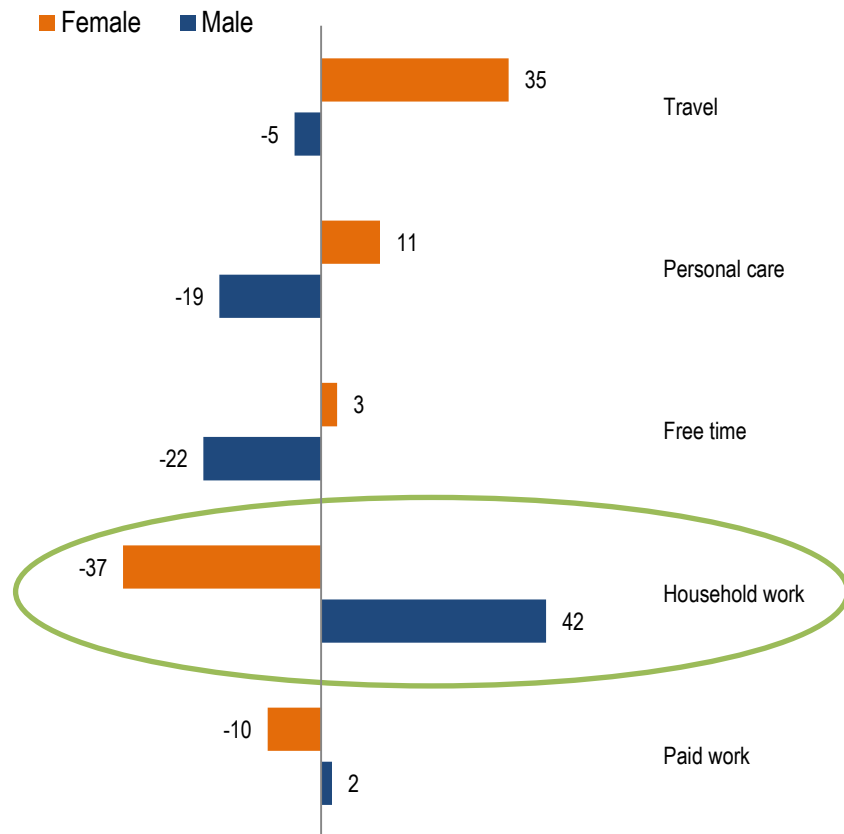


What has changed in the situation of the highest workload over the 25 years that the IT Time use survey allows to monitor?

Time spent in total work increased for men, while decreased for women in consequence of changes in time spent in household work

## The differences in budget time for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples by gender and type of activity

Differences between Year 2013-2014 and Year 1988-1989 in minutes

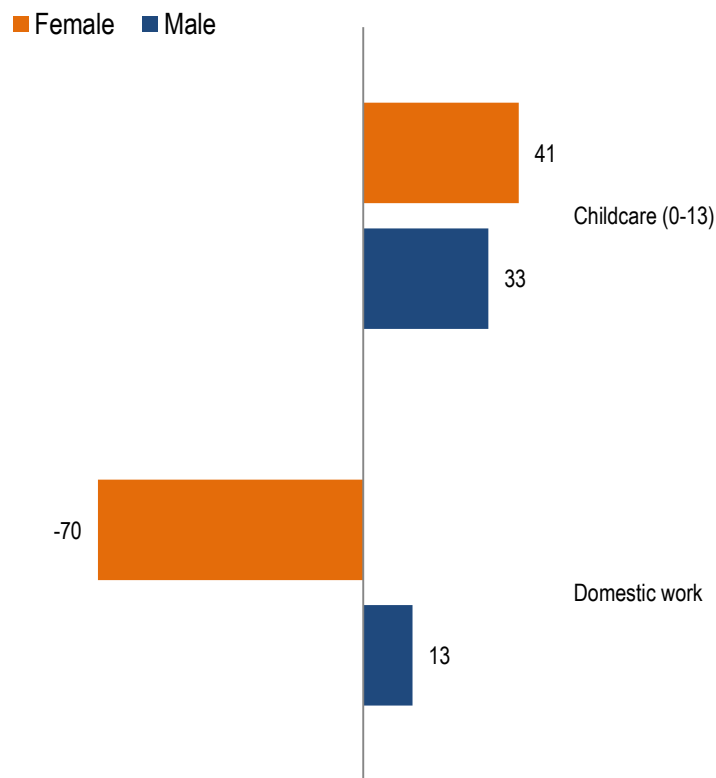


In the situation of highest workload there have been great changes mainly in time spent in household work:

- **Mothers** have reduced their household work (-37'), although they still do not see any consequence in their free time, but rather the increasing in time spent on travel (+35').
- **Fathers** have increased household work (+42'), largely subtracting it from their free time and from time spent on personal care.

## The differences in household work for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples by gender and type of activity

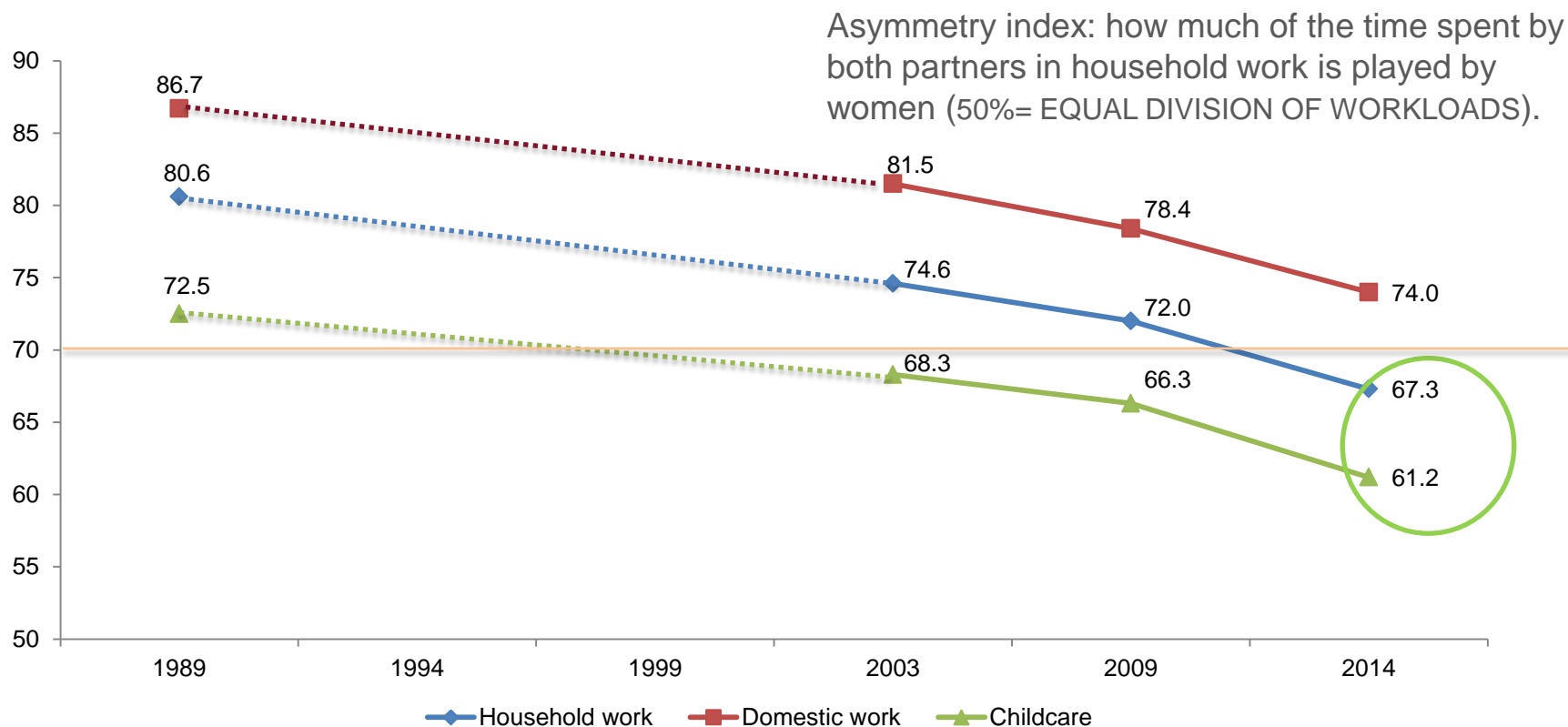
Differences between Year 2013-2014 and Year 1988-1989 in minutes



- **Mothers** have reduced greatly the time spent in domestic work (-1h10') while have increased childcare (+41').
- **Fathers** have increased a bit the time spent in domestic work (+13' in 25 years), a little more the time spent in childcare (+33').



## Asymmetry index in household work for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples, by type of activity Years 1988-1989, 2002-2003, 2008-2009, 2013-2014, in percentage



There are positive signs for gender equality in 2014 for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples: for the first time the asymmetry index in household work falls below the 70% threshold.

## 1. Question: What are the characteristics that in 2014 have more impact on the level of equity in the distribution of household work between men and women in dual earner couples?

### Theoretical approaches

The **relative resources approach**:  
the partner who earns less does more household work

$X_1$  Who among the partners contributing more to the household income?  
*She earns less, she earns more, same earnings.*

The **time availability perspective**:  
the partner who spends less time doing paid work does more household work

$X_2$  time spent in paid work during a week by partners

The **gender stereotype perspective**:  
the beliefs on gender roles influence household work sharing in a couple

$X_3$  Partner's opinion on the traditional male-breadwinner model of family

## Data

- 2013-2014 edition of Time Use Survey  
3,408 dual earner couples with both diary filled in

## Method

- **Linear regression models** were applied with **Asymmetry index in household work** as dependent variable.
- **Explanatory variables:**
  1. gender gap in earnings (*relative resources approach*)
  2. gender gap in time spent in paid work (*time availability perspective*)
  3. partner's opinion on the traditional male-breadwinner model of family (*gender stereotypes perspective*)
- *other characteristics controlled:*
  1. geographical area , 2. w. age class, 3. w. educational level, 4. m. professional status, 5. presence of young children (0-13), 6. day of the week of the diary.

# Results

	Asymmetry index	
	coeff.	Sign.
<b>Gender gap in earnings</b>		
<i>(Ref. She earns less)</i>		
She earns more	-3,84	***
Same earnings	-0,18	
<b>Gender gap in time spent in paid work</b>		
<i>(Ref. She works less during the week)</i>		
She works more during the week	-1,28	
Same working times during the week	-1,96	*
<b>Daily time spent working in minutes</b>		
Daily time spent in paid work by man	0,05	***
Daily time spent in paid work by woman	-0,04	***
<b>Opinion on traditional male-breadwinner model</b>		
Male disagreement <i>(Ref. Agreement)</i>	-3,95	***
Female disagreement <i>(Ref. Agreement)</i>	-1,66	*
<b>Context variables controlled</b>		
<i>Geographical area (Ref. South)</i>		
North	-5,76	***
Center	-4,38	***
<i>Female age class (ref. 55-64)</i>		
25-34	-5,48	***
35-44	-2,44	*
45-54	-0,70	
<i>Female educational level (Ref. Up to lower secondary)</i>		
High	-4,07	***
Upper Secondary	-0,91	
<i>Male professional status (Ref. self-employed)</i>		
Executive, employer, professional	-0,40	
Middle management, white collar	-3,71	***
Blue collar, apprentice	-4,52	***
<i>Presence of young children (0-13) (ref. No)</i>		
Yes	-2,94	***
<i>Day of the diary (Ref. Sunday)</i>		
Week-day	-2,54	*
Saturday	-6,03	***
Intercept	83,79	***
R <sup>2</sup>	0,36	

**The hypothesis of relative resources is fully confirmed:**

when women earn more than men gender asymmetry is reduced by an average of 3.8 points.

**The hypothesis of time availability is not fully confirmed:** when women works for a number of hours during the week at least equal to that of men than gender asymmetry is reduced, but this effect is not very significant.

**The hypothesis of gender stereotypes is fully confirmed:**

when man disagree with male breadwinner model the asymmetry is reduced by an average of about 4 points.

**Context variables effect 1:**

the presence of young children improves the division of tasks among the partners, reducing female burden by about **3 points**.

**Context variables effect 2:**

having an high educational level or having a white collar or a blue collar partner reduces by **4 points** female burden...

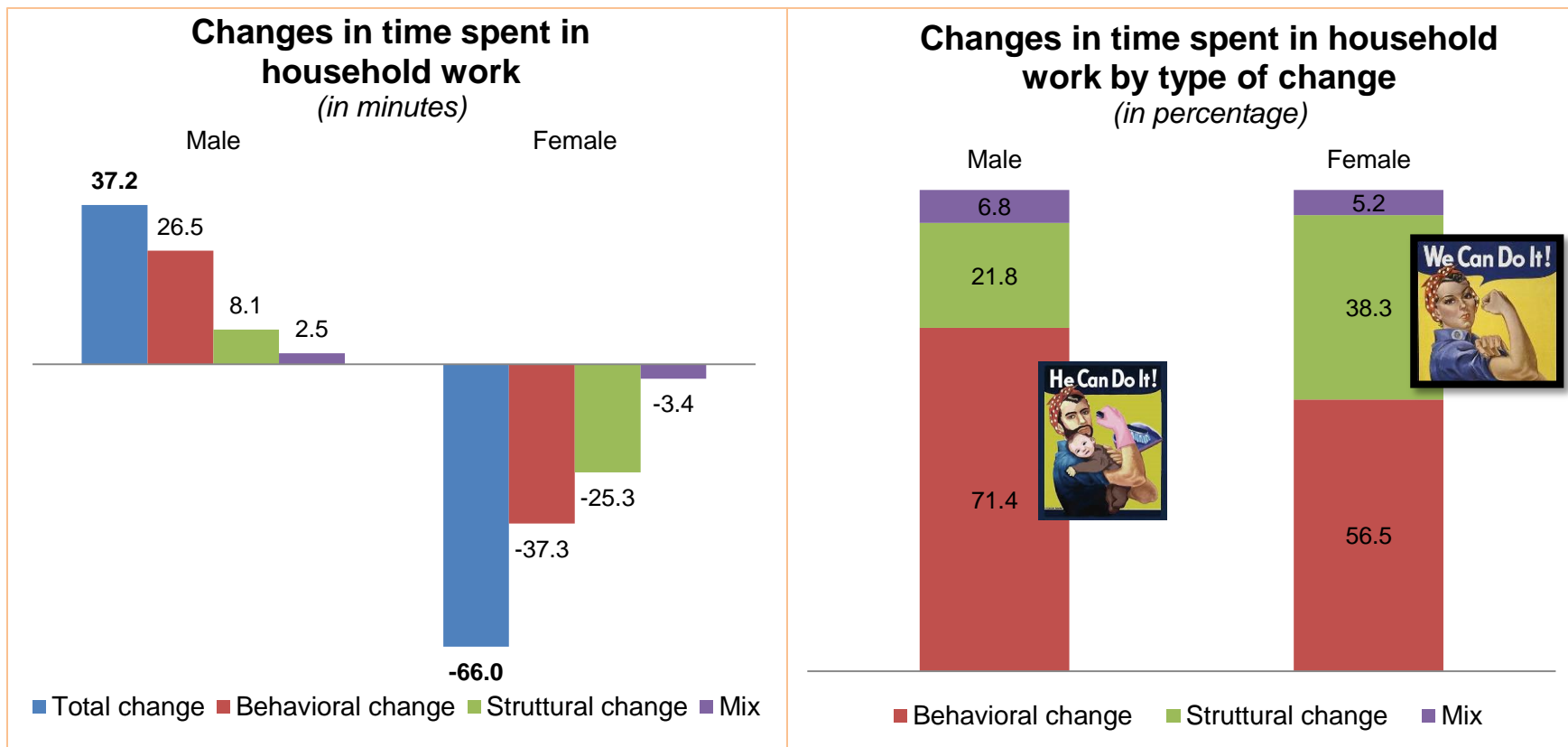
**Context variables effect 3:**

living in the Northern Italy reduces asymmetry by about **6 point** respect to the South, just like being in the 25-34 age class instead of 55-64...

## 2. Question: how much of the changes observed over the last 25 years in the time spent in household work by adult couples comes from a change in behaviors?

- **Linear regression models** were applied with **time spent in household work** as dependent variables.
- **Explanatory variables on the structural characteristics of couples:** 1. geographical area, 2. age class, 3. educational level, 4. employment status, 5. economic sector, 6. presence of young children (0-13), 7. number of children, 8. day of the week
- Distinct models for **survey edition** (1988-89 and 2013-14) and **sex** (M and F)
- **Shift & share\*** analysis based on regression models to distinguish the structural effect from behavioral effect:
  - **behavioral** effect → the structure of the population remains constant (88-89 edition), with the variation of  $\beta$  parameters from the model 88-89 to the model 13-14.
  - **structural** effect → the  $\beta$  parameters of the model remain constant (88-89 edition), with variation in structure from the model 88-89 to the model 13-14.
  - **Interaction** effect → residual component due to the interaction between the behavioral variation and changes in population structure.

$$\bar{E}_{14} - \bar{E}_{89} = \alpha_{14} - \alpha_{89} + \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{X}_{i89}(\beta_{i14} - \beta_{i89}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_{i89}(\bar{X}_{i14} - \bar{X}_{i89}) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\beta_{i14} - \beta_{i89})(\bar{X}_{i14} - \bar{X}_{i89})$$



- For **men** changes in time spent in household work are mainly due to a change in their behavior (71.4%) and, to a minimum, to structural changes (21.8%).
- For **women**, changes are due both to changes in the structure of the population (employment rates and education levels) and behaviors.

1. Italian couples are slowly moving towards a more equal distribution of household work between men and women.
2. Factors more associated with gender equity in times are:
  - Younger age
  - Higher female educational level
  - Male disagreement with traditional gender roles
  - Lower gender gap in earnings
3. What is changing:
  - For men changes in time spent in household work are mainly due to a change in their behavior
  - For women changes are due both to changes in the structure of the population and behaviors

Thank you for your time!

