

# Why should we care about care?

---

THE ROLE OF INFORMAL CHILDCARE AND  
ELDERCARE IN AGING SOCIETIES IN EASTERN  
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Ana Maria Munoz Boudet, Victoria Levin, Beth Zikronah Rosen  
Poverty and Social Protection and Labor Global Practices; ECA Region  
The World Bank Group

# Outline

---

- 1) Organization of the care supply
- 2) Care throughout women's lifecycles
- 3) Care, labor force attachment, & income
- 4) Policy Options

# Note 1: Data for this report

- Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)

- Time Use Surveys

- Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

- European Social Survey

- Existing HH surveys

- Authors developed new mixed-methods dataset: supply and demand assessment

ECA Countries	Independent Data	SHARE	GGP	ESS	HETUS	National TUS	RLMS
Albania				X			
Armenia	X						
Azerbaijan							
Belarus							
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X						
Bulgaria			X	X	X		
Croatia				X			
Czech Republic		X	X	X			
Estonia		X	X	X	X	X	
Georgia			X				
Hungary		X	X	X			
Kazakhstan							
Kosovo	X			X			
Kyrgyz Republic	X						
Latvia				X	X		
Lithuania			X	X	X		
FYR Macedonia	X					X	
Moldova						X	
Montenegro							
Poland		X	X	X	X		
Romania			X	X			
Russian Federation			X	X			X
Serbia	X					X	
Slovakia				X			
Slovenia		X		X	X		
Tajikistan							
Turkey				X			
Turkmenistan							
Ukraine	X			X			
Uzbekistan							

# 1. Organization of the care supply is linked to three factors

---

## 1. Household-level capacity and market factors

- Household size, composition, and opportunity cost of time for household members

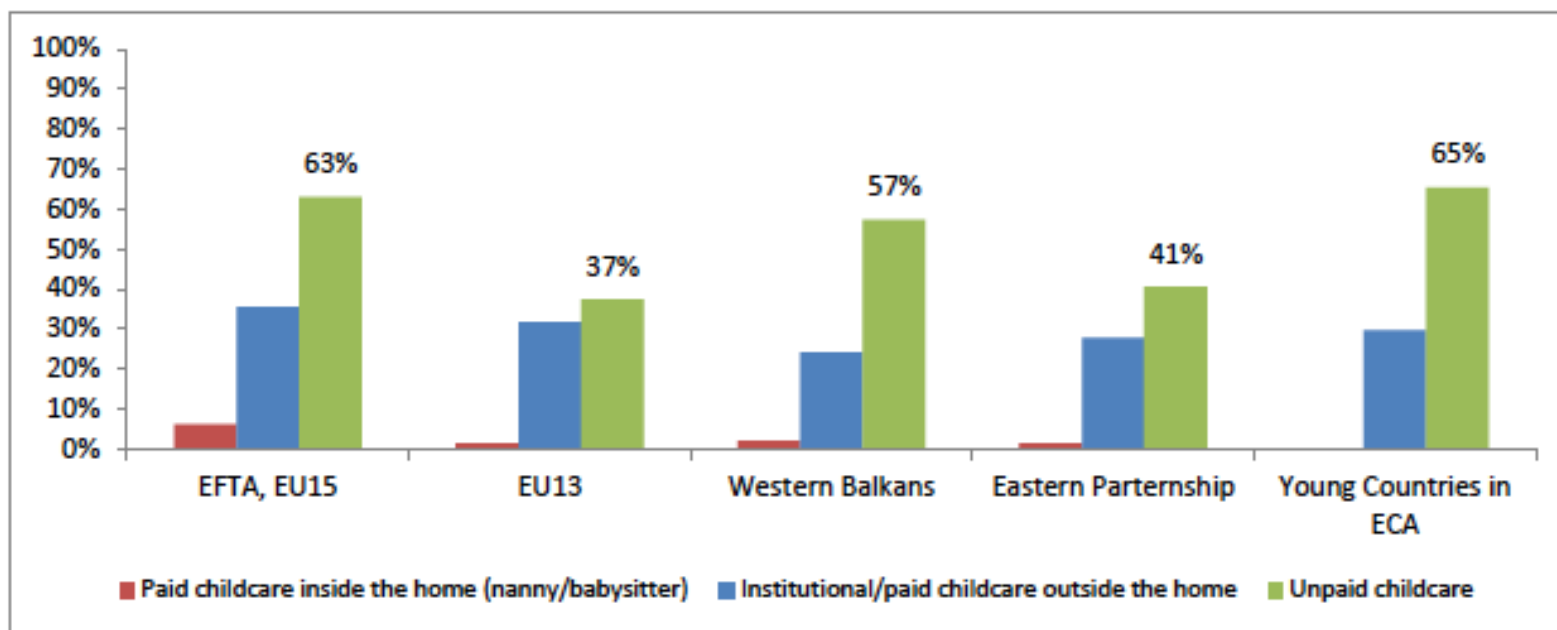
## 2. Social norms

- Filial obligation, if you have cared after someone once you will do it again, acceptability of state involvement in caregiving

## 3. Available services and support structures

- Availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of childcare and eldercare options

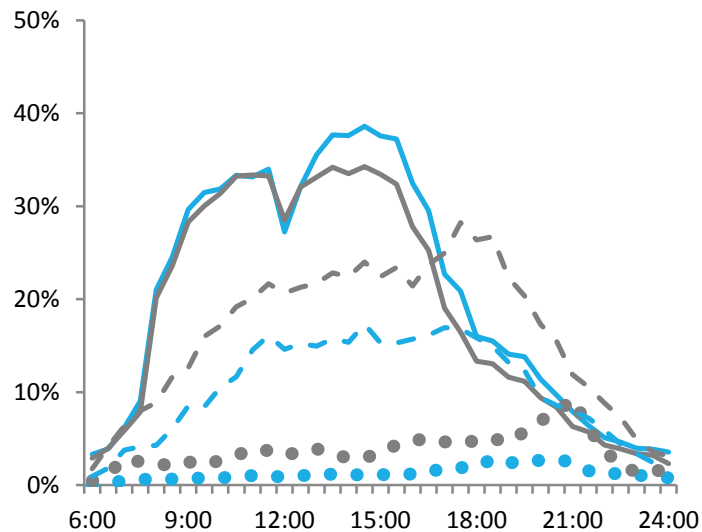
...This often adds up to a preponderance of *informal* care



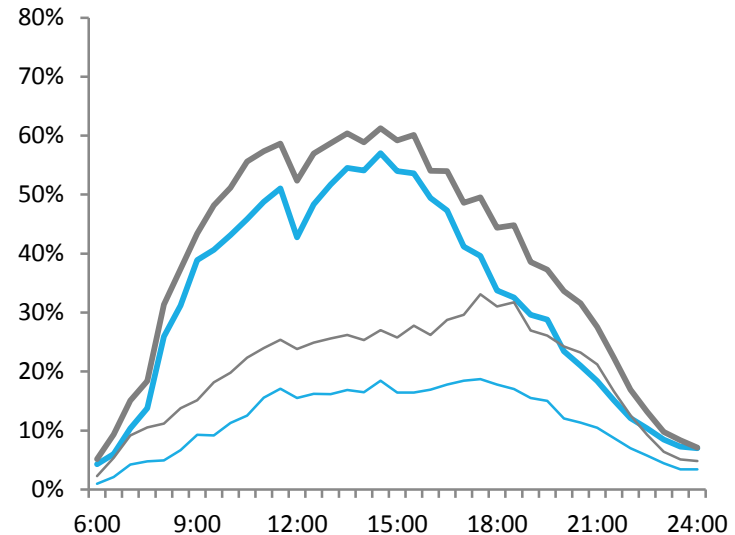
*Source:* Authors' calculations based on GGS data (most recent wave for Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, and Belgium) and fieldwork data (2014 data for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Kyrgyz Republic, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine).

# Women bear more of the burden of informal care than men, regardless of whether they work for pay

**Proportion of Estonian working age population (aged 20-64 years) undertaking activities by gender and time of day**



— Paid work, Men      — Paid work, Women  
●●● Care, Men      ●●● Care, Women  
- - - HH Product, Men      - - - HH Product, Women



— Total work, Men      — Total work, Women  
— Unpaid work, Men      — Unpaid work, Women

## 2. Care throughout women's lifecycles

---

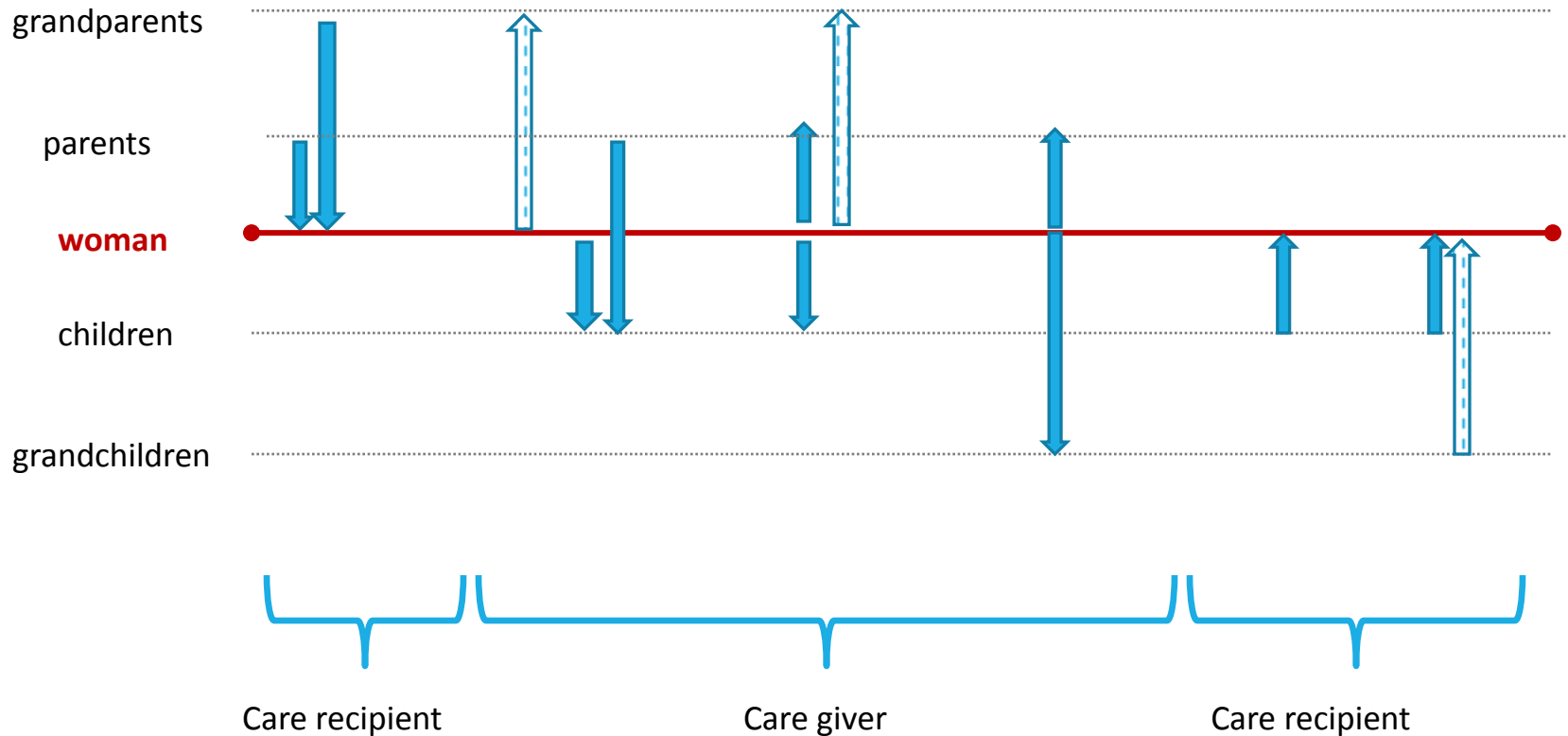
Women are likely to be engaged in caregiving at different stages of their life.

- One or multiple directions at the same time
  - Mothers
  - Daughters
  - Grandmothers
- Different intensities in terms of time and frequency

Aging societies increase the demand for upward care flows besides the traditional downward care.

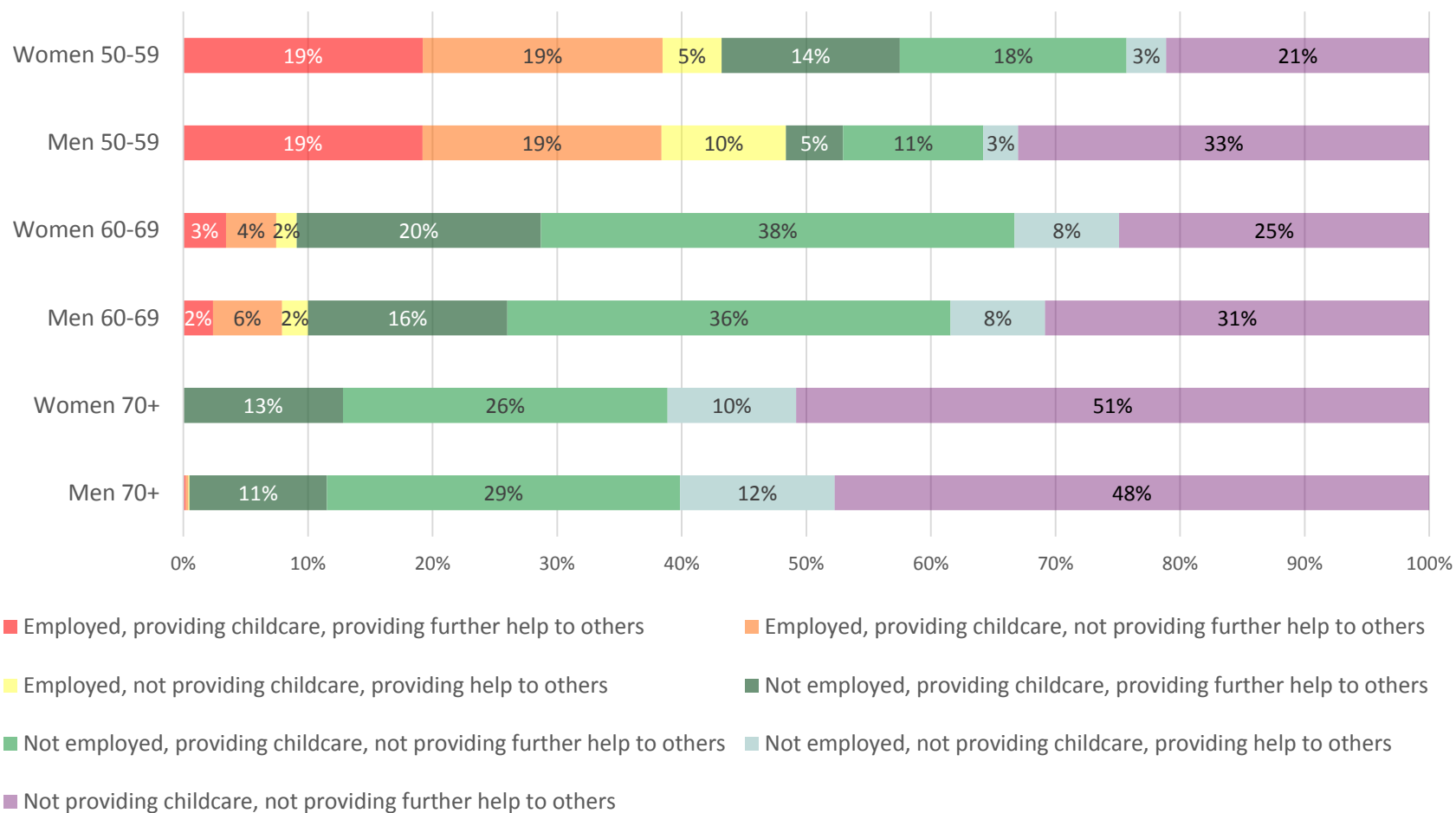
# Care throughout women's lifecycles has expanded in aging societies

---





# At all ages, women and men are providing some type of care to others



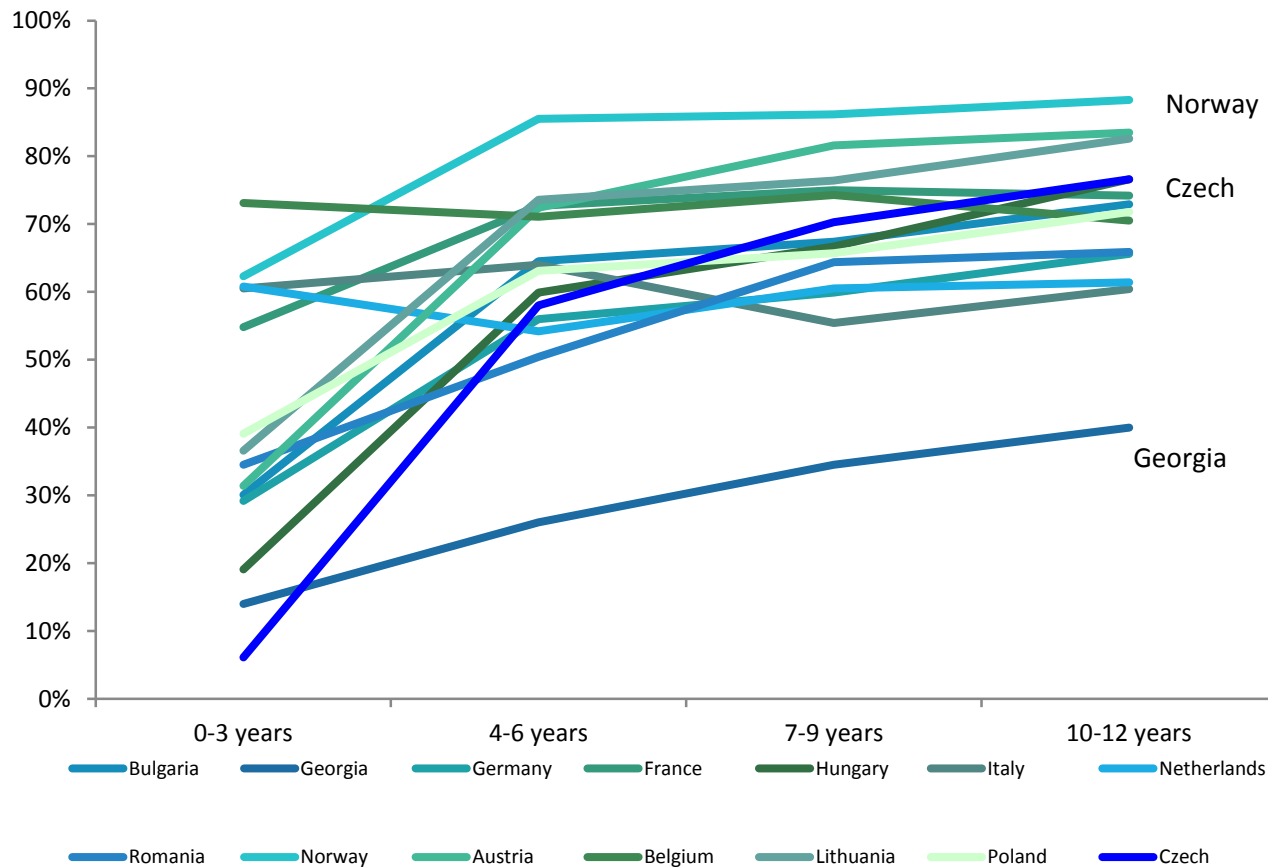
### 3. Care, labor force attachment, & income throughout women's lifecycles

---

- As with childcare, intensive eldercare duties can reduce female labor supply during the most productive years.
- There is a substantial body of evidence, from a variety of contexts, that intensive, time-demanding care has significant negative effect on the likelihood of staying in the labor force
- Greater availability of formal care options can be expected to affect female labor force participation in the intensive and extensive margins.

# Mothers: It starts with childcare responsibilities

There is a well-documented decrease in labor supply for women with young children, and in some countries, this reduced labor supply of mothers persists for an extended period of time.

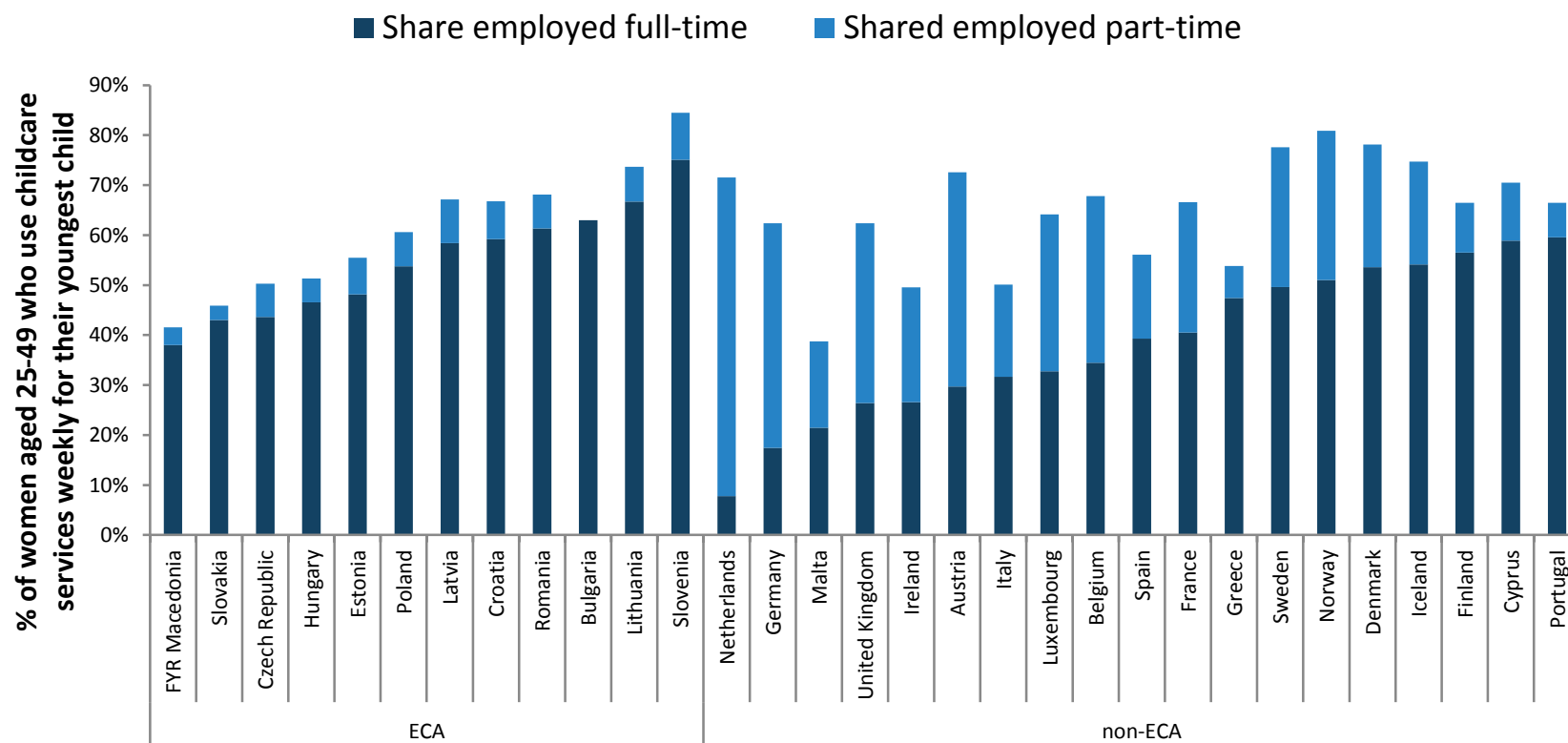


Source: Authors' calculations based on GGS Wave 1 data.

Note: Sample includes female respondents with at least one child in the household. The employment rate is the share of those who report that they are employed or self-employed.

Working women tend to use childcare services more than those not working. Mothers in EU-13 countries are more likely to stay out of the labor force due to childcare availability and quality and more likely to be in part-time employment due to availability and cost compared to EU-15

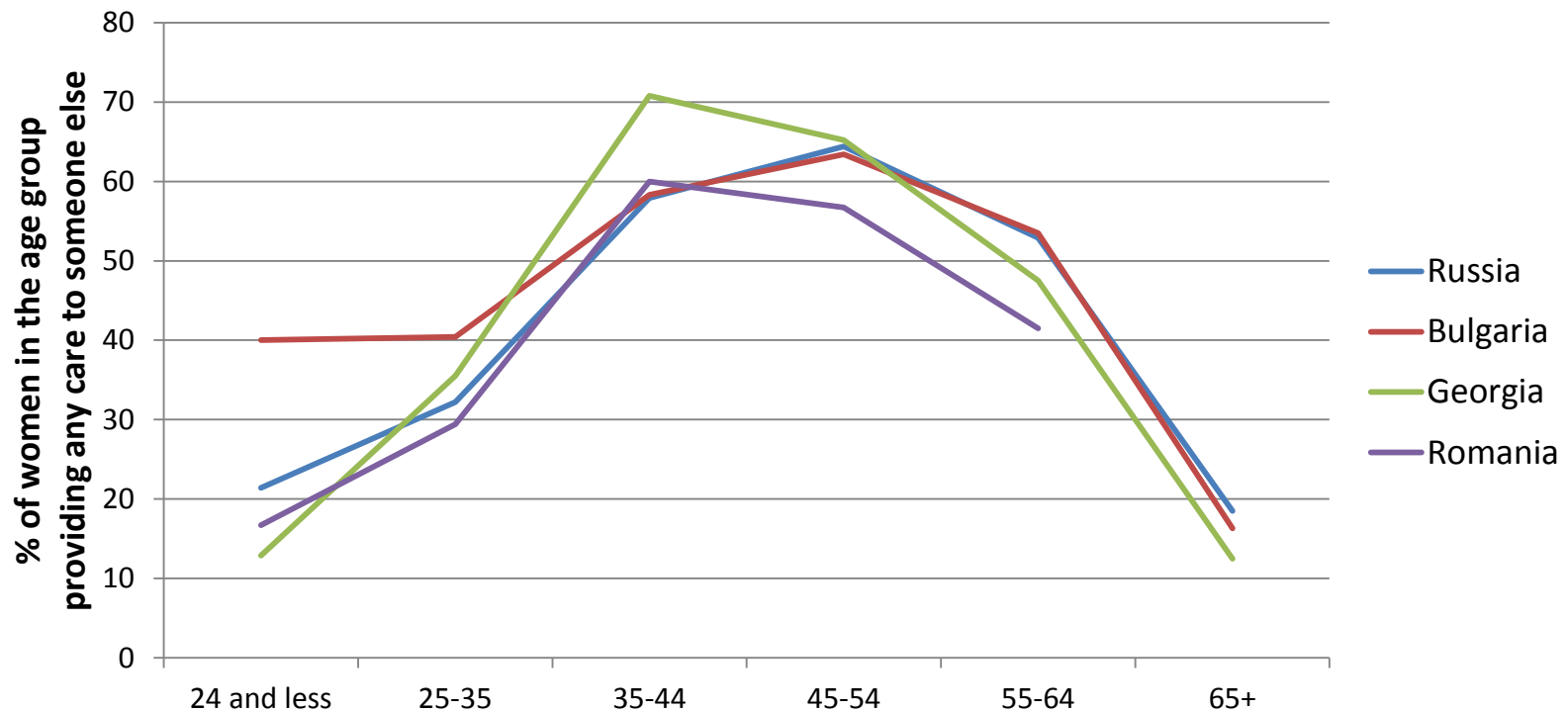
### Employment profile of working mothers using childcare services



## *Daughters of elderly parents:*

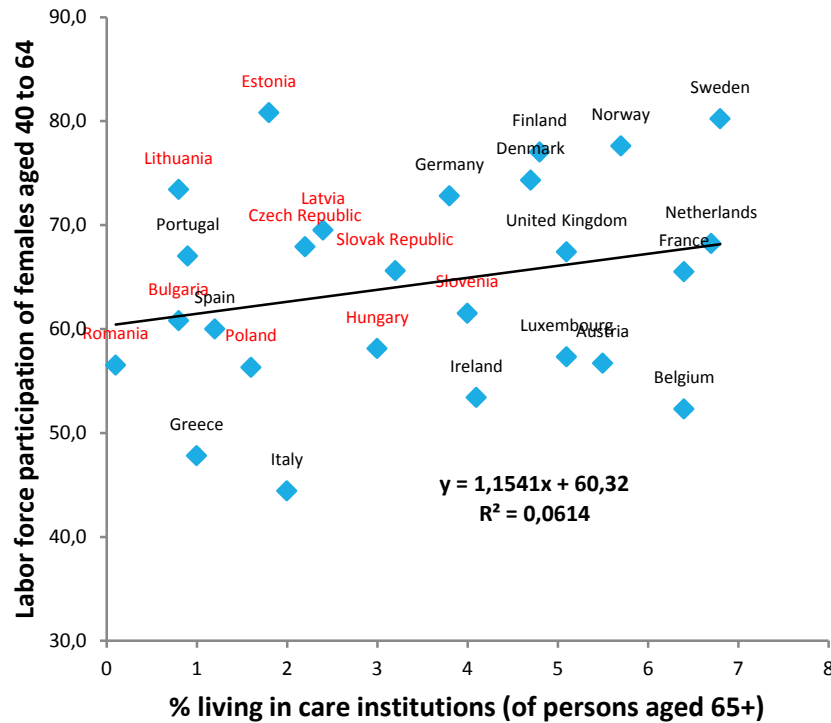
Women tend to provide care to elderly parents at the ages at which they would have the highest lifetime income

**Care provided to parents and/or parents-in-law among women who report providing help in the previous year. Female respondents, by age**

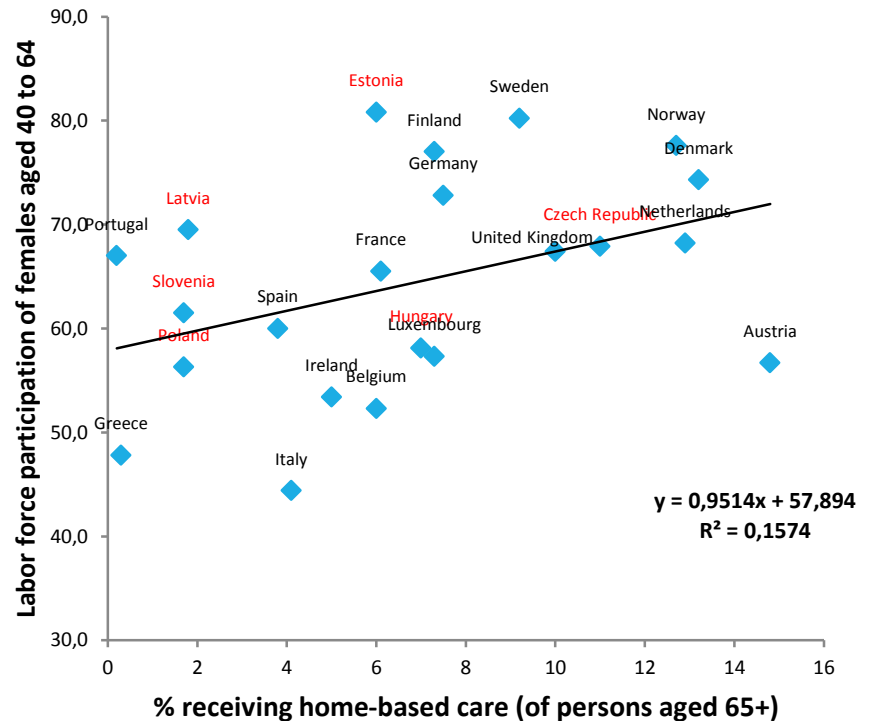


Utilization rates of formal eldercare services are correlated with labor force participation rates of the population that is most likely to be providing informal caregiving—women aged 40–64

**RESIDENCE IN CARE INSTITUTIONS**

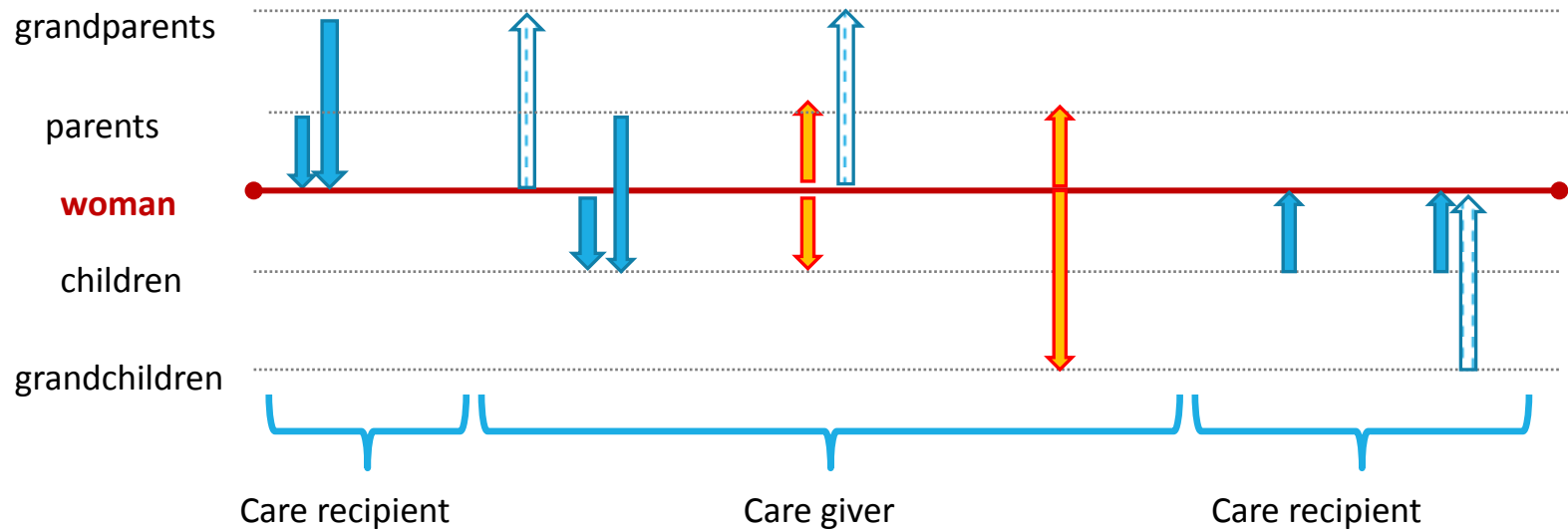


**RECEIPT OF HOME-BASED CARE**



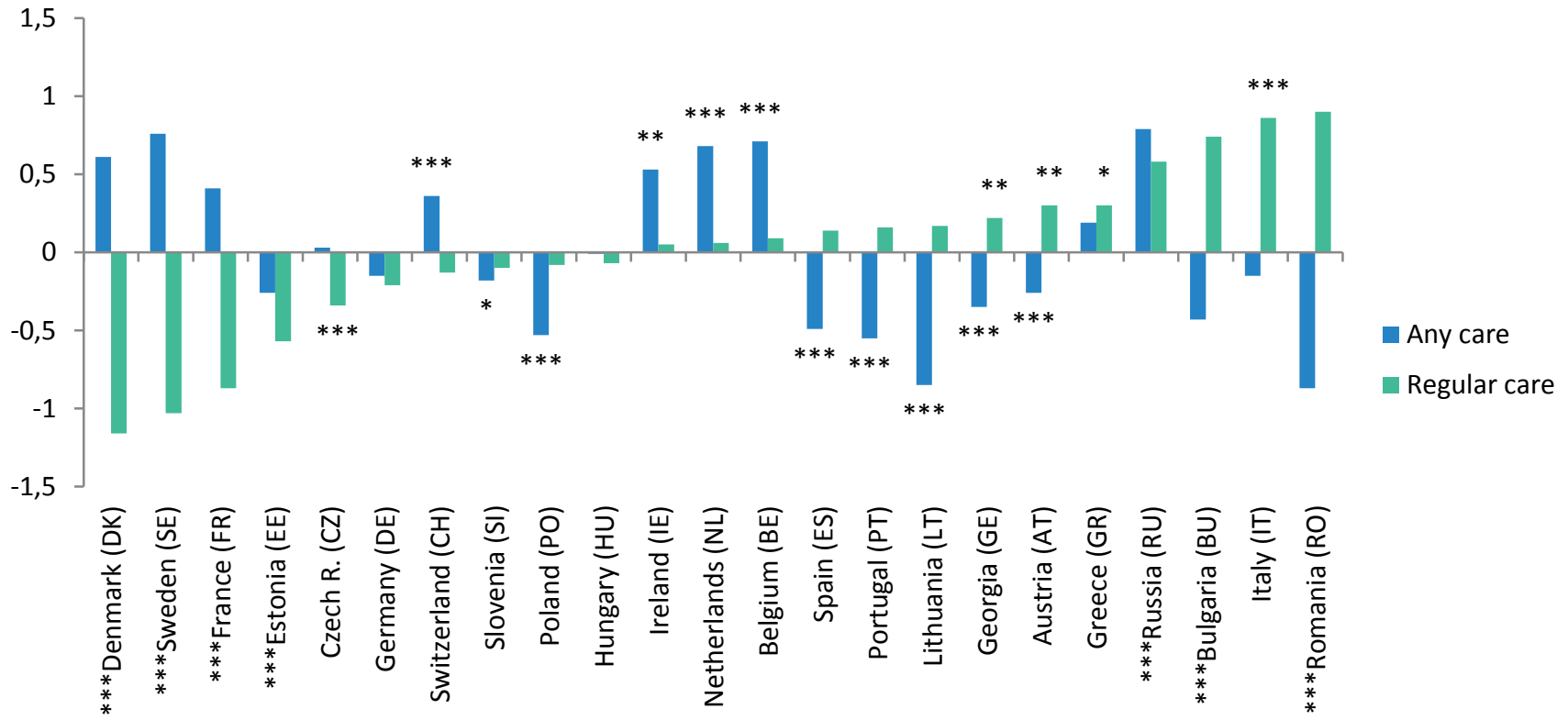
## Caught in the middle: The sandwich generation

- Increased longevity + delayed onset of fertility → women are expected to provide care simultaneously to multiple generations



# Grandmothers: They provide frequent care in some countries, and in others, they just help

Estimated country coefficients for grandmothers' care provision (any and regular grandchild care)

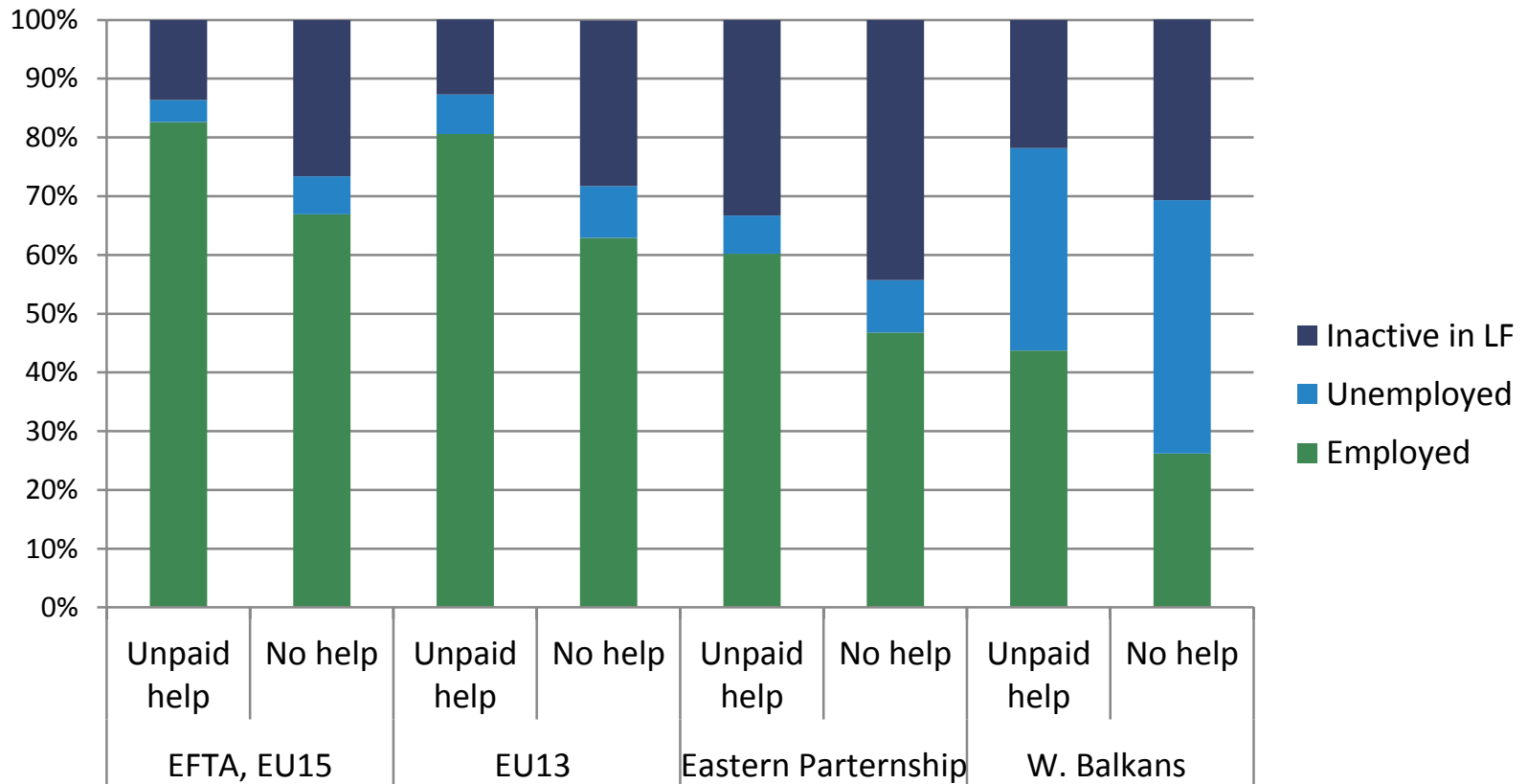


Source: Buber-Ennsner (2014) based on SHARE wave 4 (AT, BE, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, HU, IT, NL, PO, PT, SE, SI) and wave 2 (GR, IE). N=27,708 grandparents with at least one grandchild under the age of 16 years, and N=16,360 that provide any care.



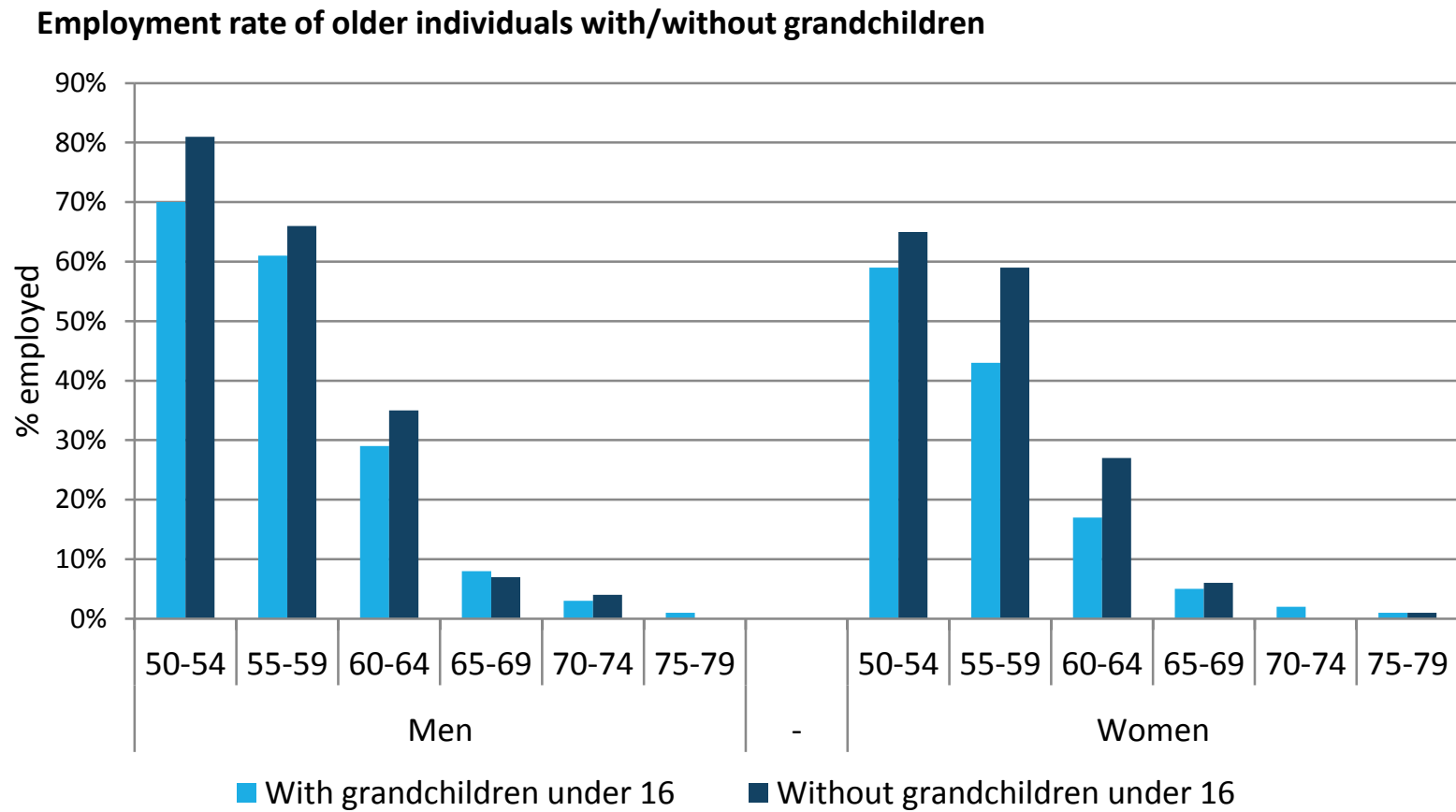
# Grandmother-provided childcare can enable mothers' employment...

**Labor status for mothers with and without informal care**



Source: Authors' calculations based on GGS data (most recent wave for Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Georgia, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, and Belgium) and fieldwork data (2014 data for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine).

... but this can negatively impact the labor supply of grandmothers



# Care, labor force attachment and income

---

- “Sandwiched” women have been found to experience higher levels of work-related stress, absenteeism as well as a greater mismatch between actual and preferred working hours
- Higher-educated pre-retirement-age (50-65) women are at the highest risk of performing the double care duties.
- Sandwiched individuals are less likely to be in the labor force, which implies that sandwich responsibilities are associated with early retirement of highly-skilled women
- Being a female caregiver is associated with a significantly higher poverty risk
- Caregiving can be associated with a higher poverty risk later in life due to lower accumulated pension wealth
- Perverse cycle whereby women from lower-income households are more likely to become informal caregivers, which in turn results in even lower household incomes.

## 4. Policy options

---

The ideal policy mix will vary by country, but some areas to consider include:

- Providing accessible, affordable, quality formal care services
- Acknowledging and improving informal care
  - Creating leave policies that support the family as care providers (paid, unpaid)
  - Promoting flexible work arrangements
  - Considering allowances and tax incentives for caregivers and/or recipients
  - Improving pension credits for caregivers systems (coverage, targeting, and generosity)
  - Promotion of participation in the labor market of the young old as caregivers of the oldest old

Thank you

---