



Leibniz Institute for
**EAST AND SOUTHEAST
EUROPEAN STUDIES**

Gender health paradox and pandemic shock. The differences between European countries and their explanation based on the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

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Theoretical background

The gender health paradox “women experience more extended life expectancy but still higher rates of disability and poor health than men especially at older ages”

- It is observed as one of the forms of gender inequality and is widely described in the literature (e.g. Oksuzyan et al 2010, Van Oyen et al. 2013, Alberts et al 2014).
- Is widespread in Eastern Europe (see Andreev et al. 2003, Aguilar-Palacio et al. 2018, Ahrenfeldt et al. 2019, Scheel-Hincke et al. 2020).

The covid-19 pandemic is an external shock that could either demonstrate the stability of these patterns or change them for a certain period

Gap dynamics

- We calculate the differences between gaps within and after pandemics for **LE**

$$(e_{65}^m(2022) - e_{65}^m(2019)) - (e_{65}^f(2022) - e_{65}^f(2019))$$

1. The difference at the age 65 between male/female LE in 2022 and 2019
2. Male gap – female gap
3. “+” – the life expectancy of men declined stronger, “-” – the life expectancy of women declined stronger,

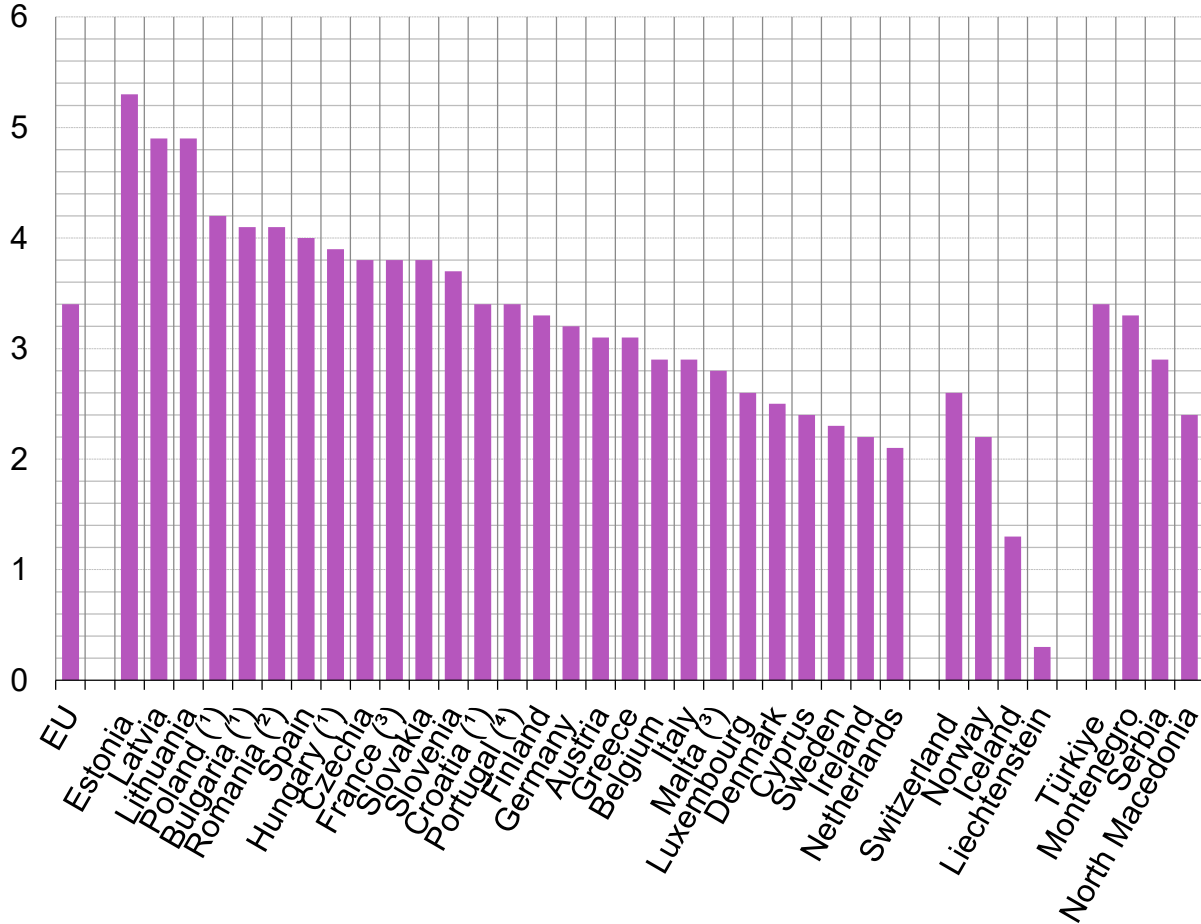
- For **health** we calculated (based on SHARE) before and within pandemics

Description

- Although for the countries from the EU we see some interesting dynamics within pandemics (Schöley et al, 2022) the situation in 2022 does not show any remarkable changes and a clear East-West pattern

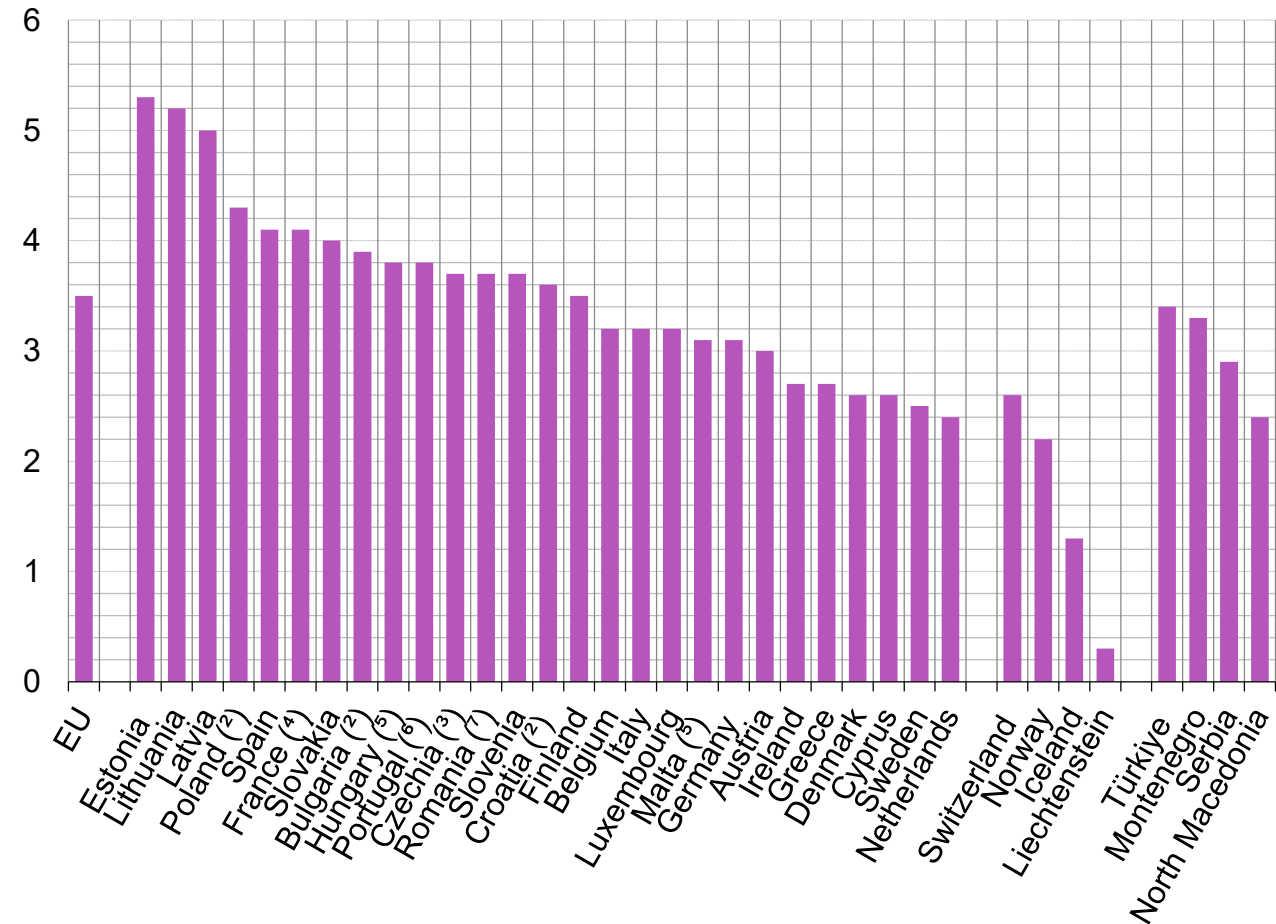
Gap in 65+ LE (before and after pandemics)

2022



Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

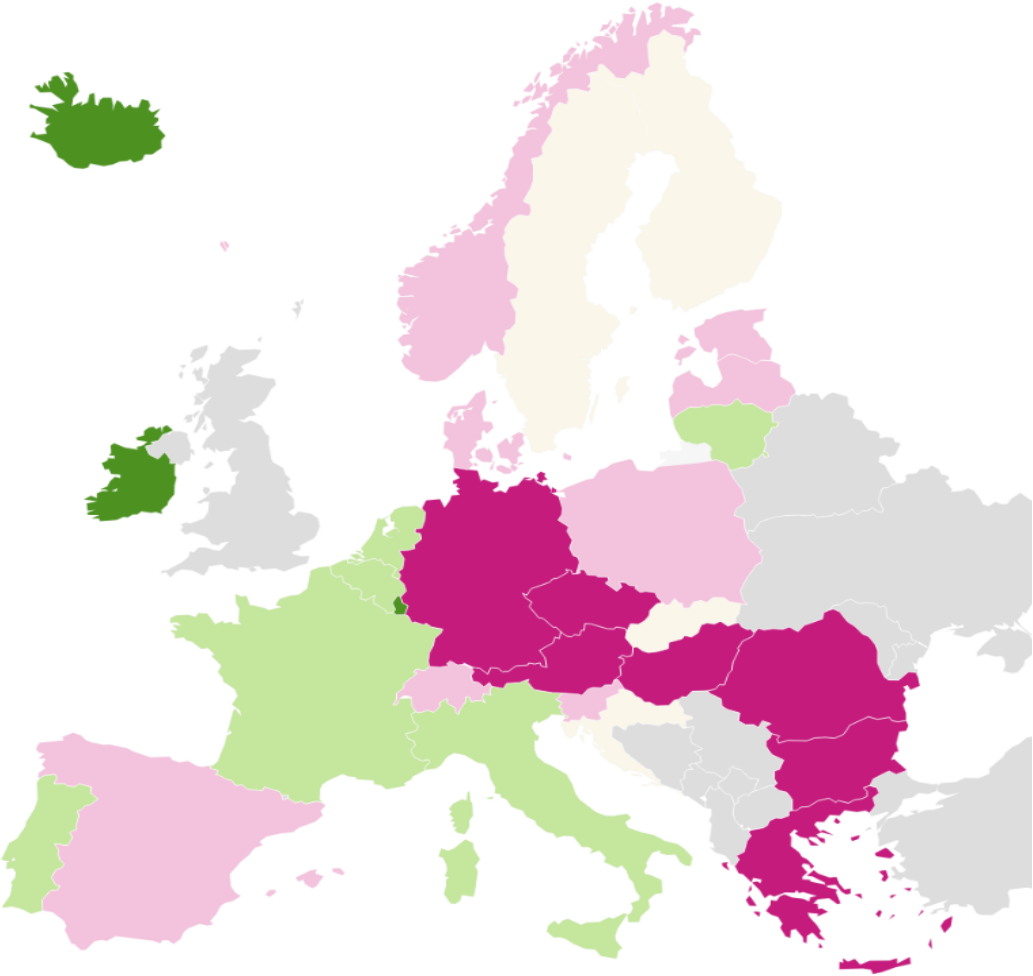
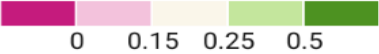
2019



Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

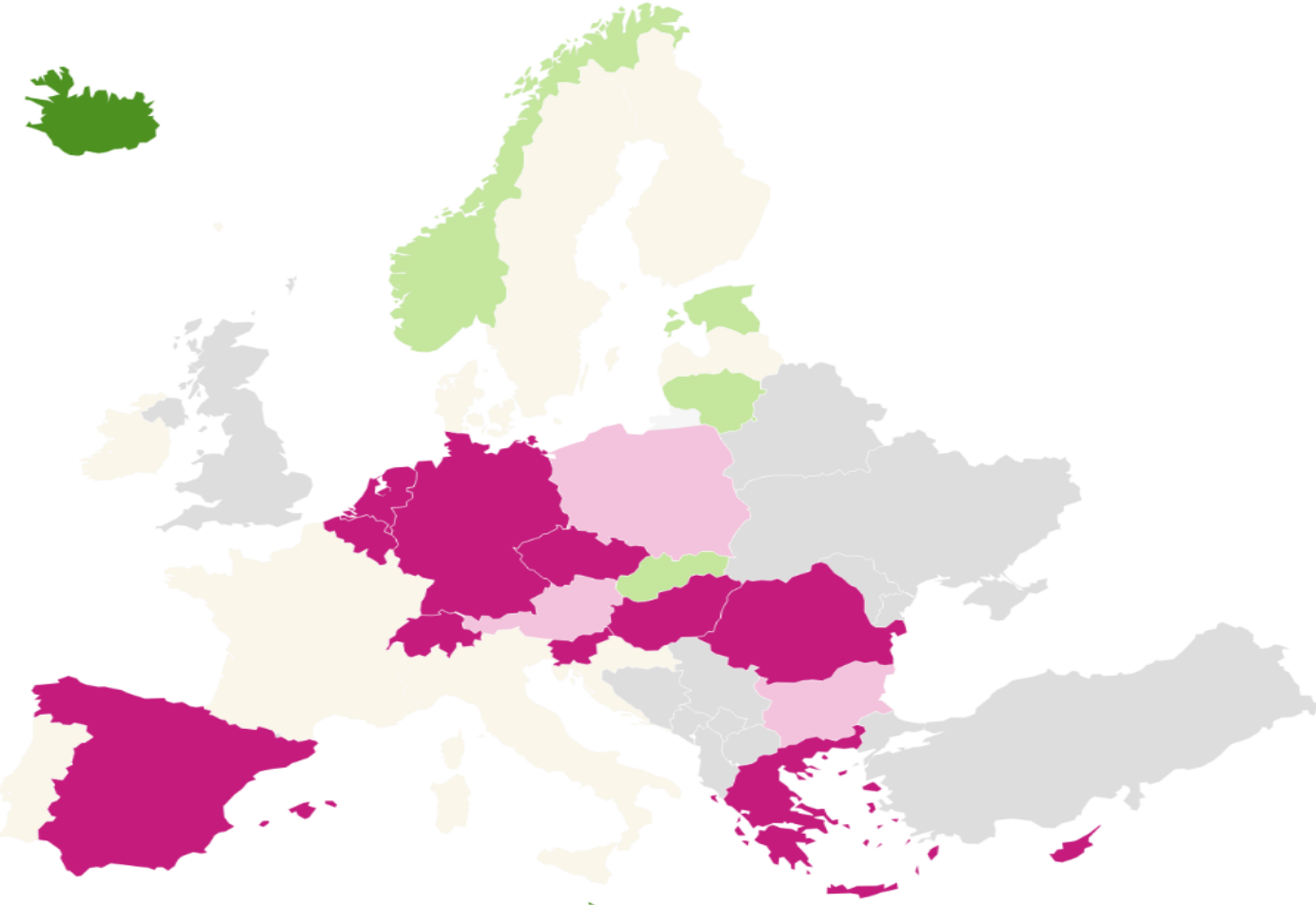
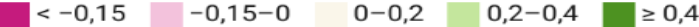
Life expectancy differences

2022 and 2019



Gender gap at the age 65+ difference between 2021 and 2019

Difference between LE drop at the age 65+ (Men - Women)

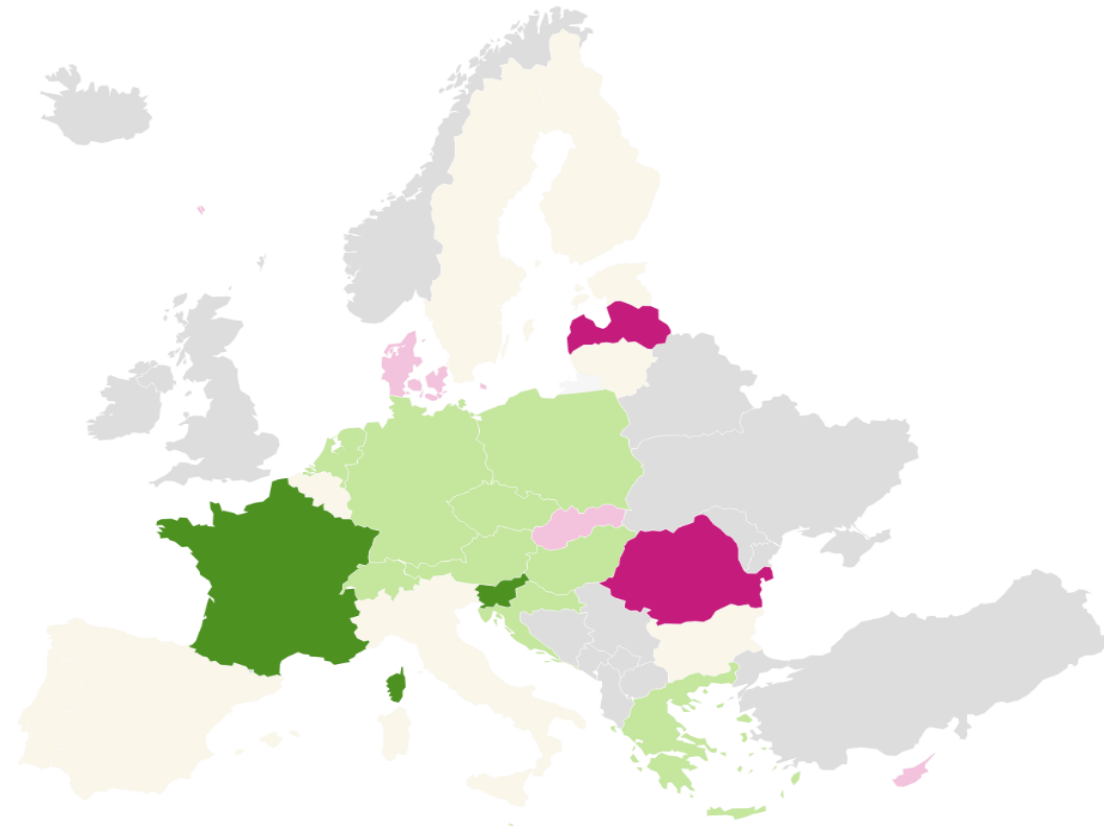
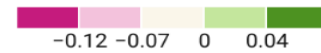


+ means decline stronger for women, - means for men

Health differences, based on SHARE calculations

Gender gap (health) 2021 - 2017

The average health



Based on SHARE calculations

Source: SHARE • Created with Datawrapper

Hypotheses

- The higher chance to die and lose health in Eastern Europe
- The lower chance to die and higher to lose health for women
- The protective against death and vulnerable to the health loss pattern for the women in Eastern Europe

Additionally:

- Work and Socialization with the other persons as risk factors in C-19 (differently measured)

Hypotheses

- The higher chance to die and lose health in Eastern Europe - ***Confirmed***
- The lower chance to die and higher to lose health for women - ***Confirmed***
- The protective against death and vulnerable to the health loss pattern for the women in Eastern Europe – ***Not significant***

Additionally:

- Work and Socialization with the other persons as risk factors in C-19 (differently measured) – ***Controversial effect***

Technical issues

- Logistic regressions with clustered se (countries)
- Based on longitudinal part of SHARE database (without Wave 9)