



Gender and Living Arrangements: the increase in small unit living and the consequences for familial support

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RIS Commitment 8:

Mainstreaming a gender approach

- to support families that provide care
for older persons
- to promote intergenerational solidarity
- to promote intra-generational solidarity

Outline:

-- living arrangements

-- related family support arrangements

-- policy considerations

Taking into account the gender perspective

Living arrangements of older adults:

-- size

-- composition

by sex and age groups

However:

International comparative and nuanced data absent

- UN Wall chart 2006:

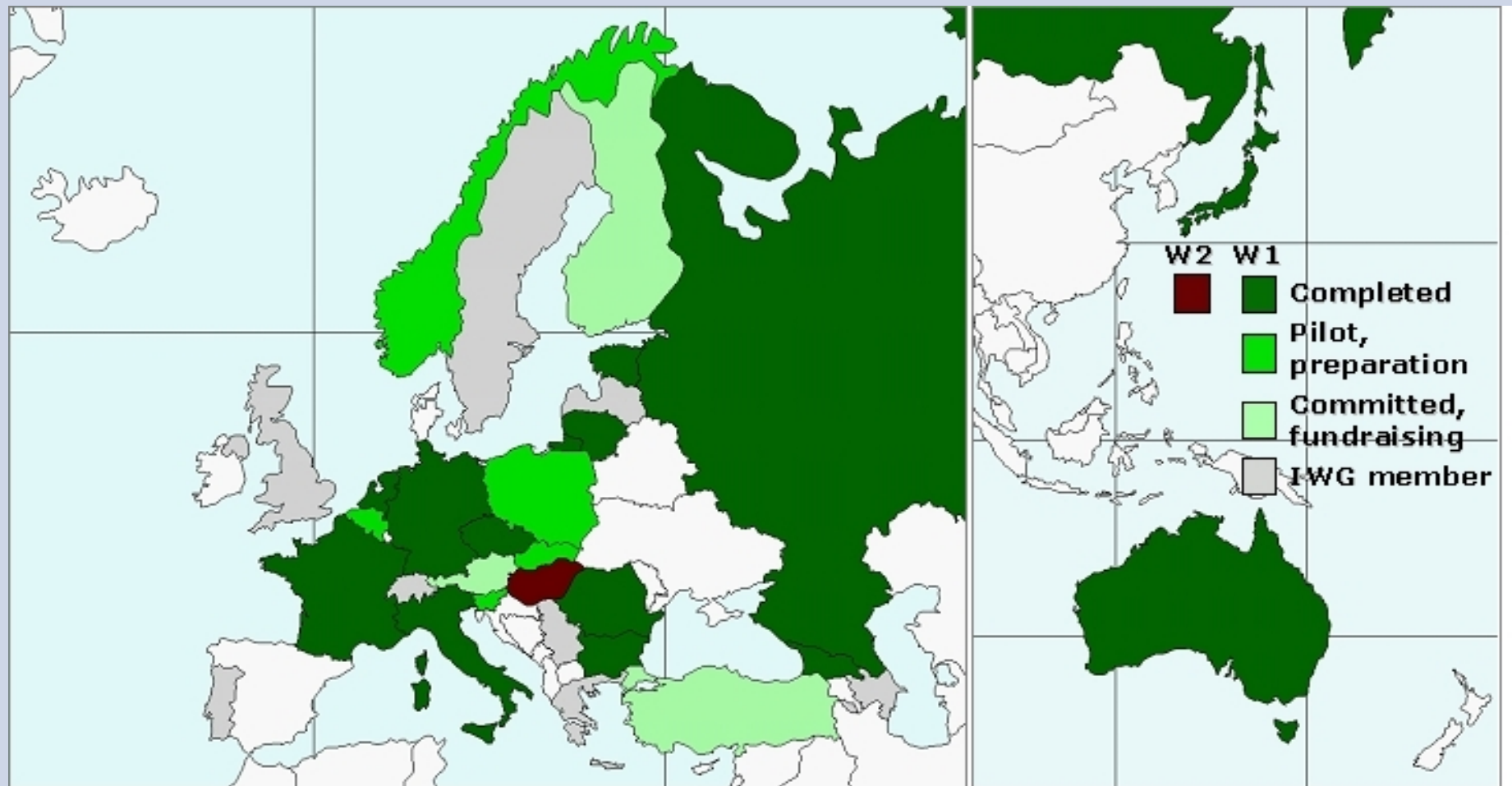
→ % living alone for women and men
(60 years or older)

Population aged 60 and over living in a one person household; in percentages by sex

	Women	Men
Europe	31	13
Northern Europe	44	21
[Denmark 50 - 25]		
Western Europe	43	15
Eastern Europe	31	11
Southern Europe	26	9
[Spain 19 - 7]		

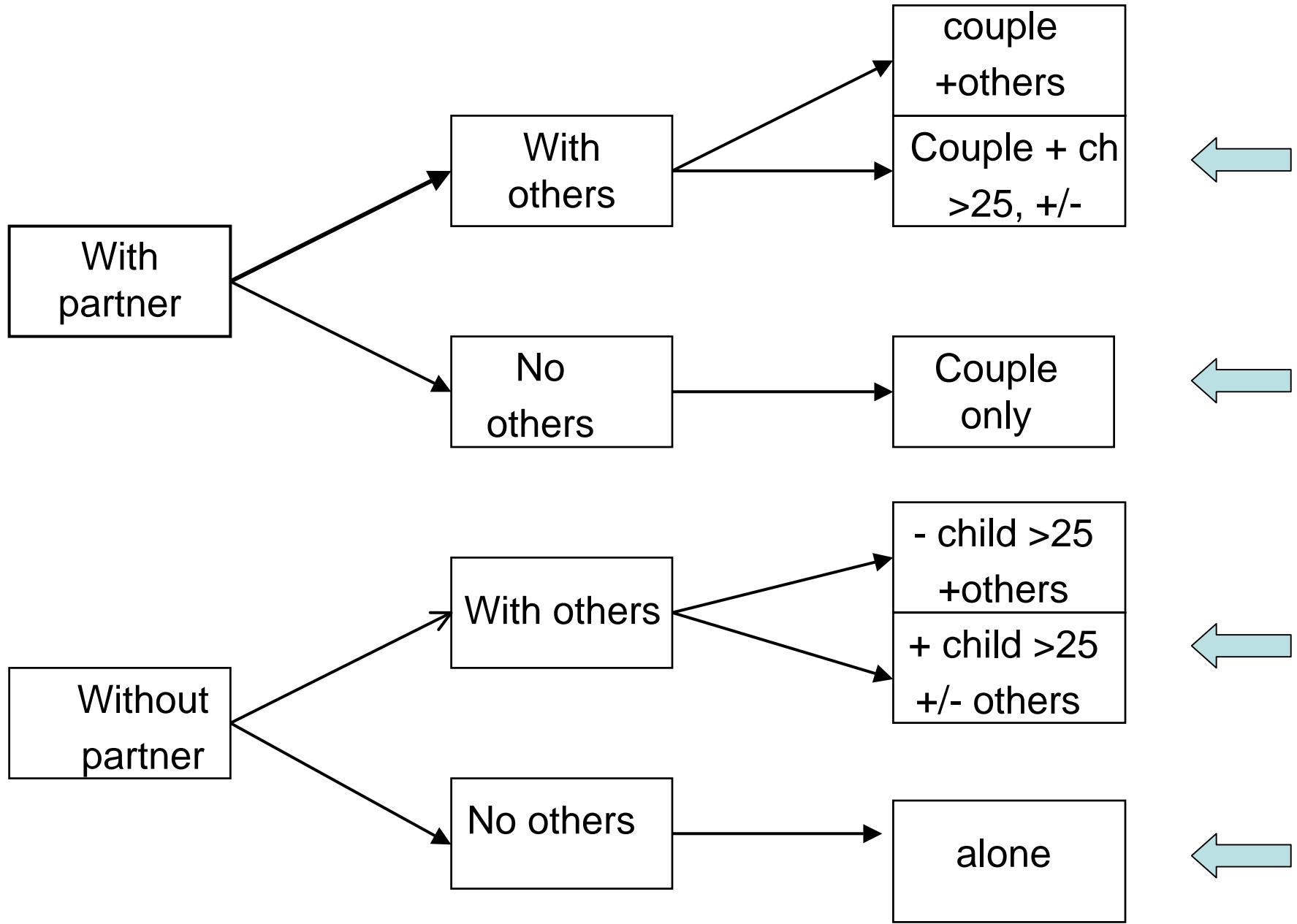
Gender and Generation Surveys:

- Under the auspices of the PAU ECE
- Same framework
 - Conceptual: Life course
 - Same questionnaire
 - Same research methodology (sample design)
 - Panel
- Harmonized data will be available starting summer 2007



GGS allows nuanced construction of living arrangements of older adults:

- living with and without partner
- With or without children in household
 - Age of children: 25+; yes or no?
(Guidelines of UN co-residence report by Susan de Vos)
- With or without others in household



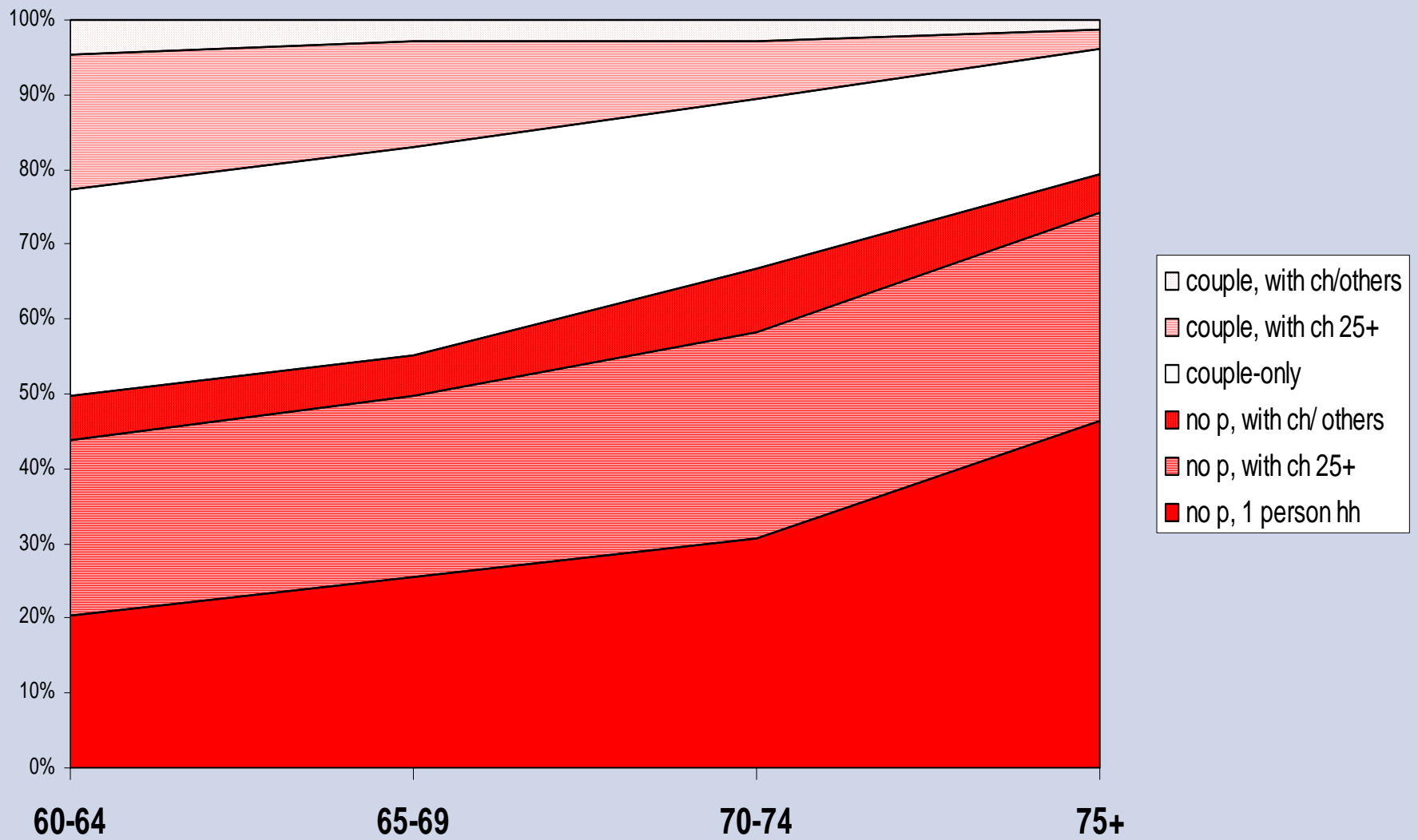
Comparing

- Russian Federation as an example of Eastern European countries

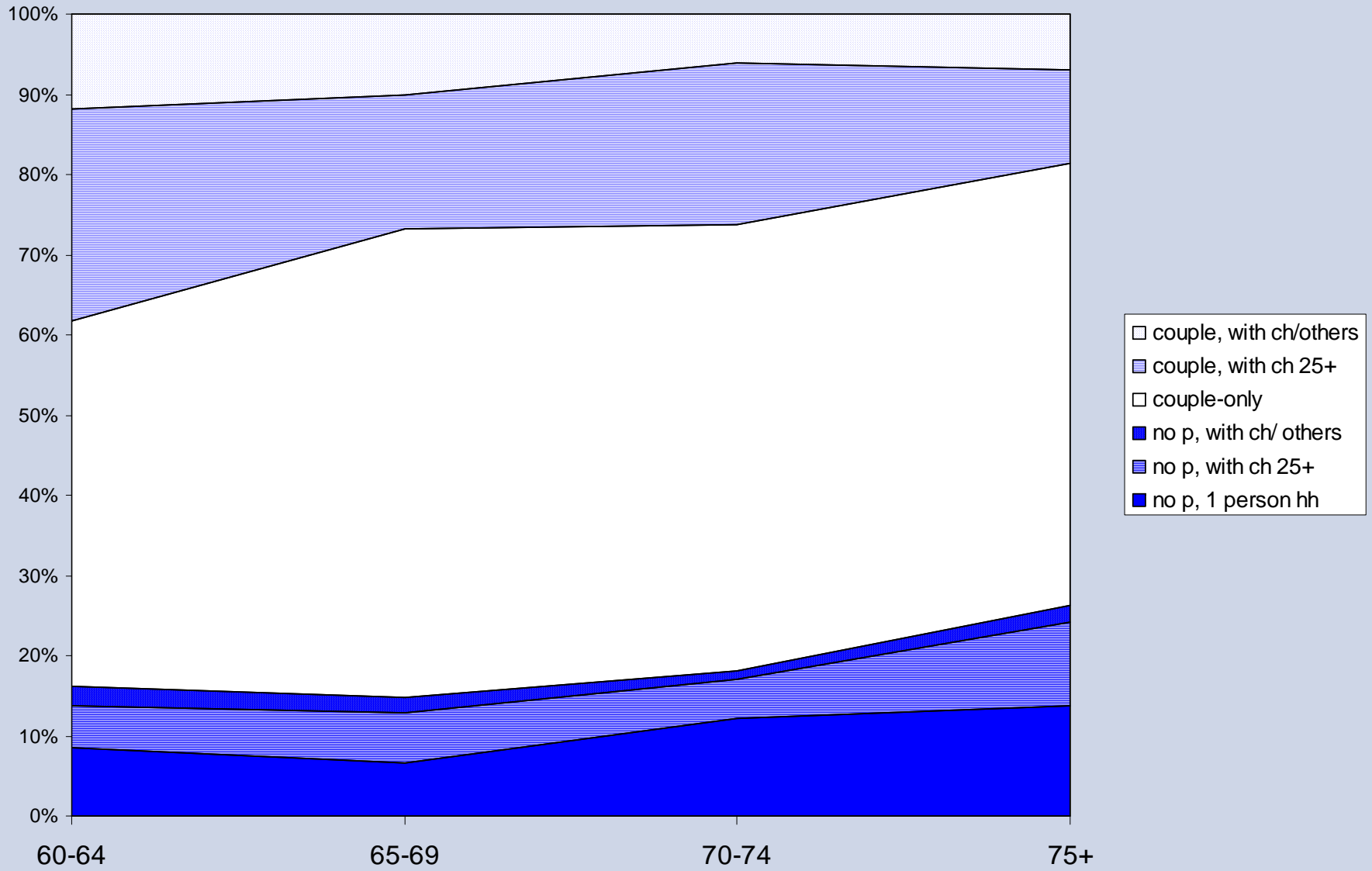
&

- The Netherlands as an example of Western European countries

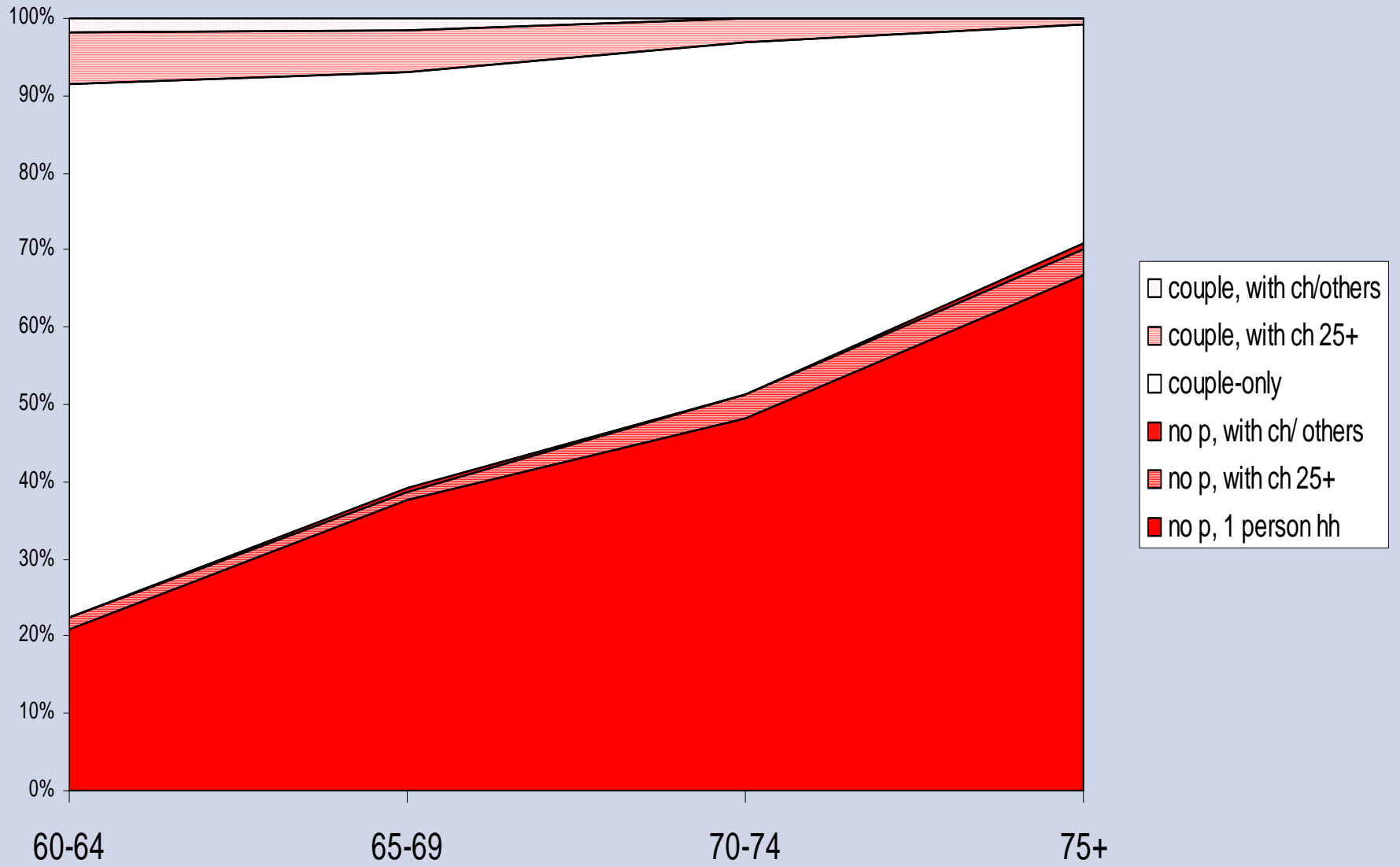
Household composition by age; women 60+, Russia (GGS, weighted data)



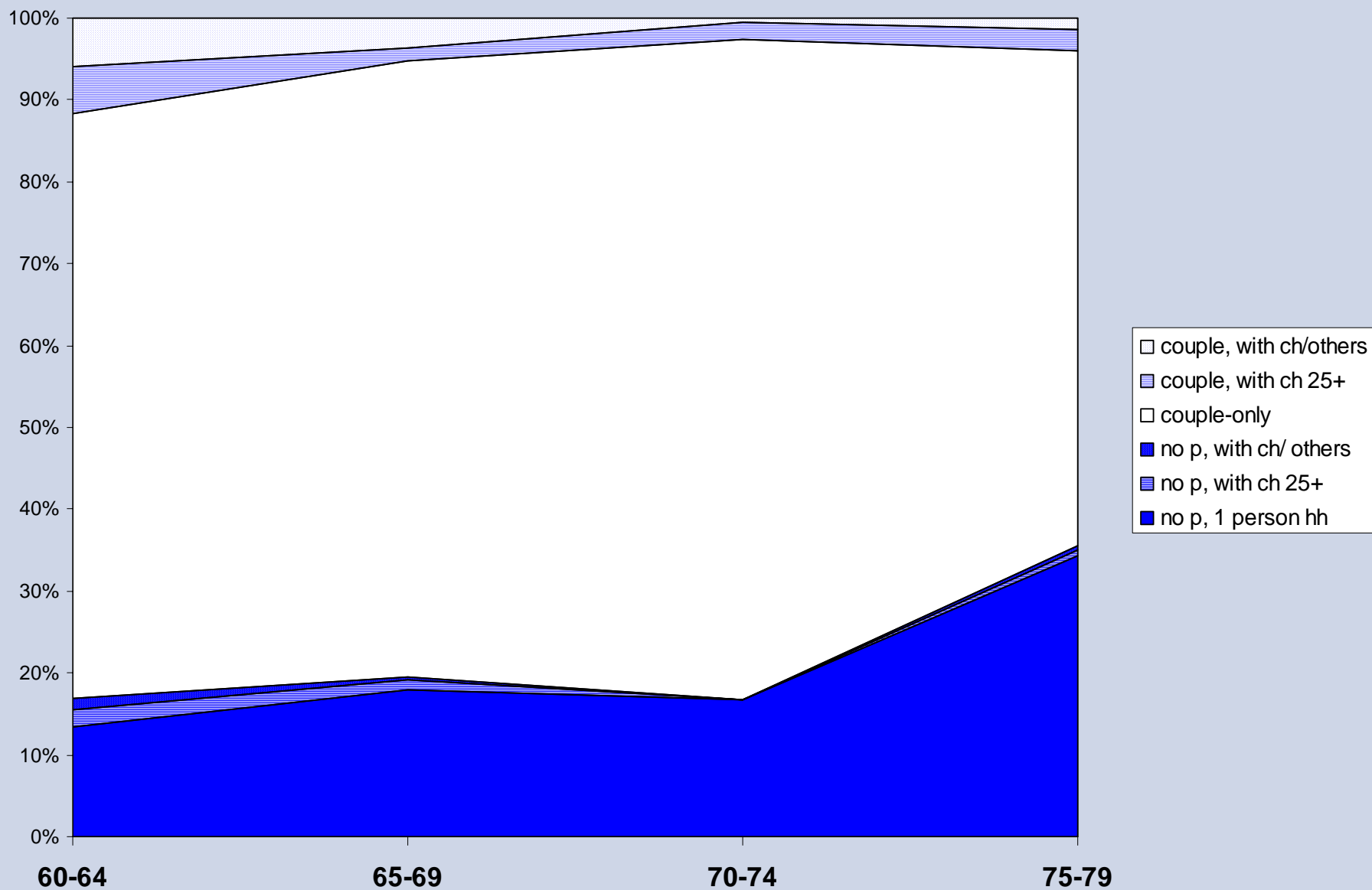
Household composition by age; men 60+ Russia (GGS, weighted data)



Household composition by age; women 60+, Netherlands (NKPS, weighted data)



Household composition by age; men 60+ the Netherlands (NKPS, weighted data)

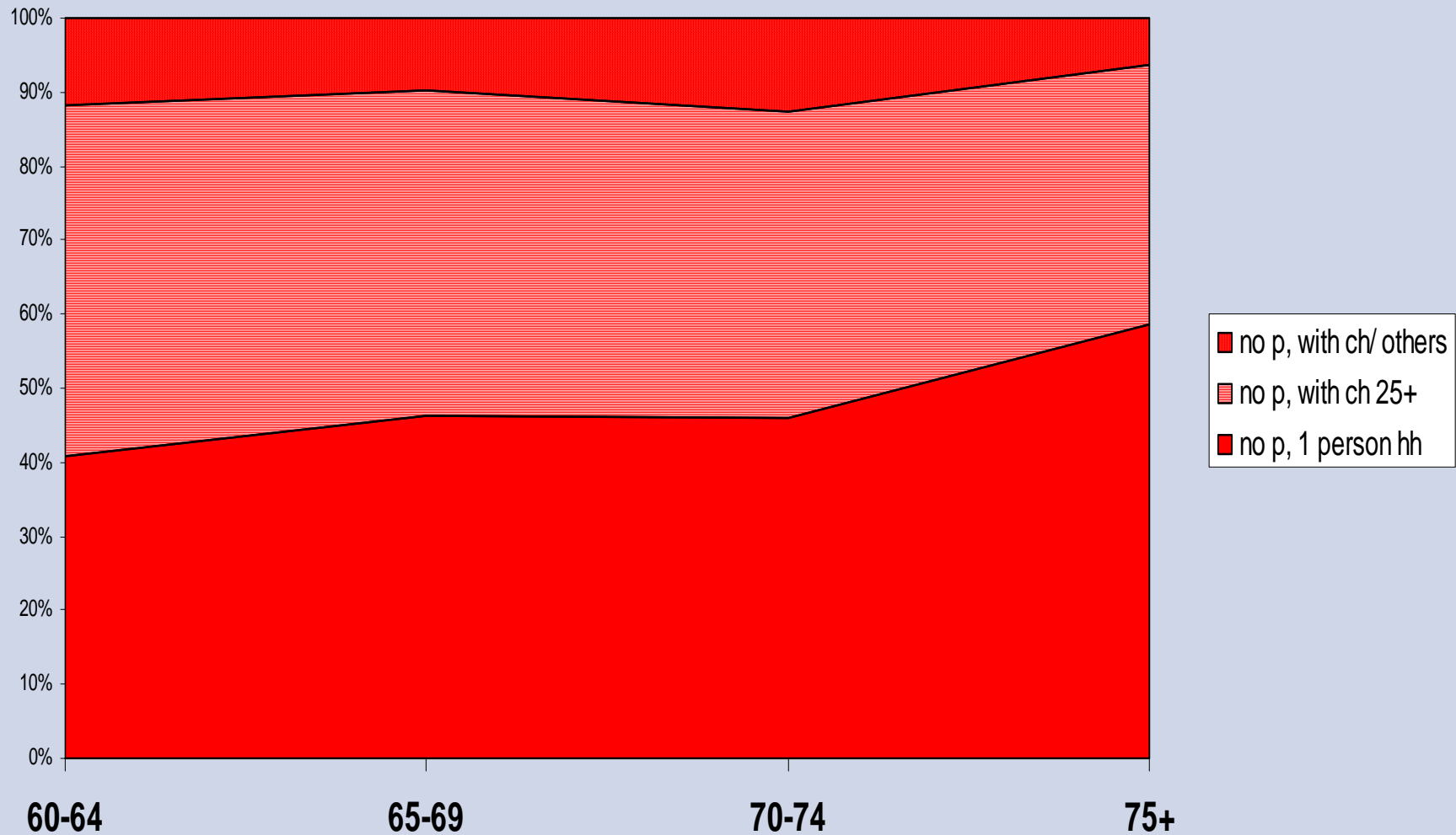


To further explore the differences in living arrangements of older adults

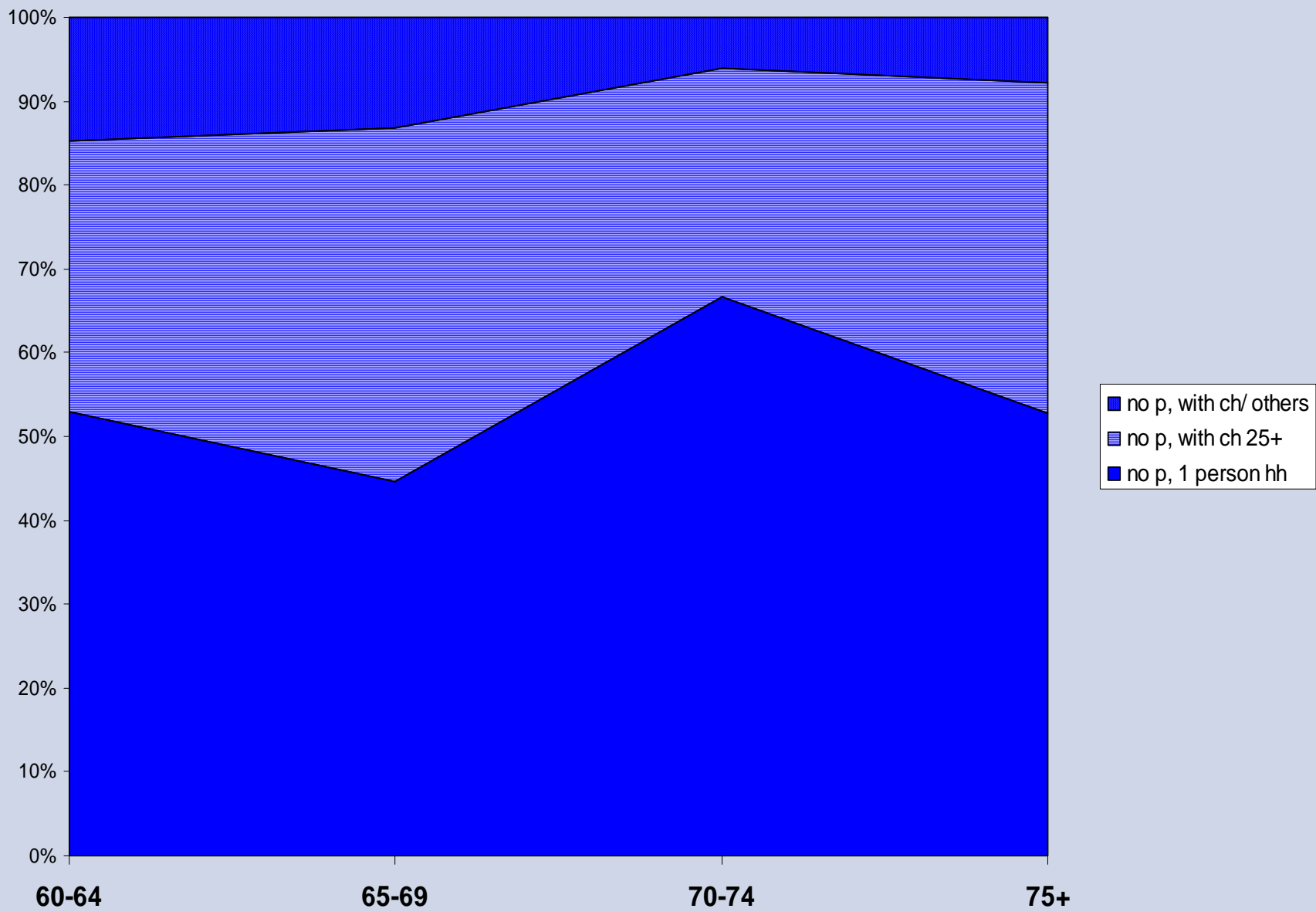
- Russian women *no partner* by 5 yr age groups
- Russian men *no partner* by 5 yr age groups

- Russian women *with partner* by 5 yr age groups
- Russian men *with partner* by 5 yr age groups

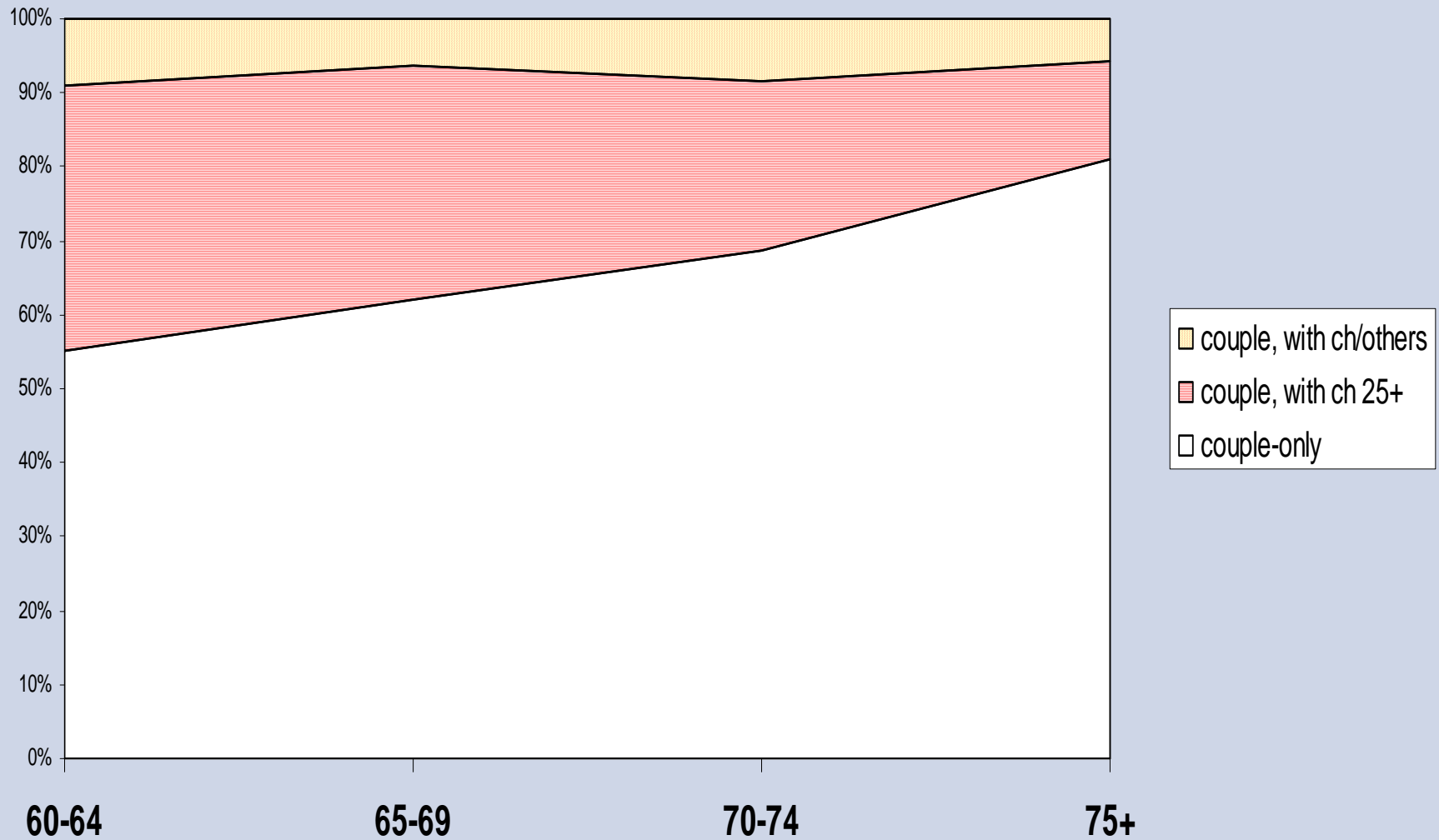
Household composition by age; women 60+ without partner, Russia (GGS, weighted data)



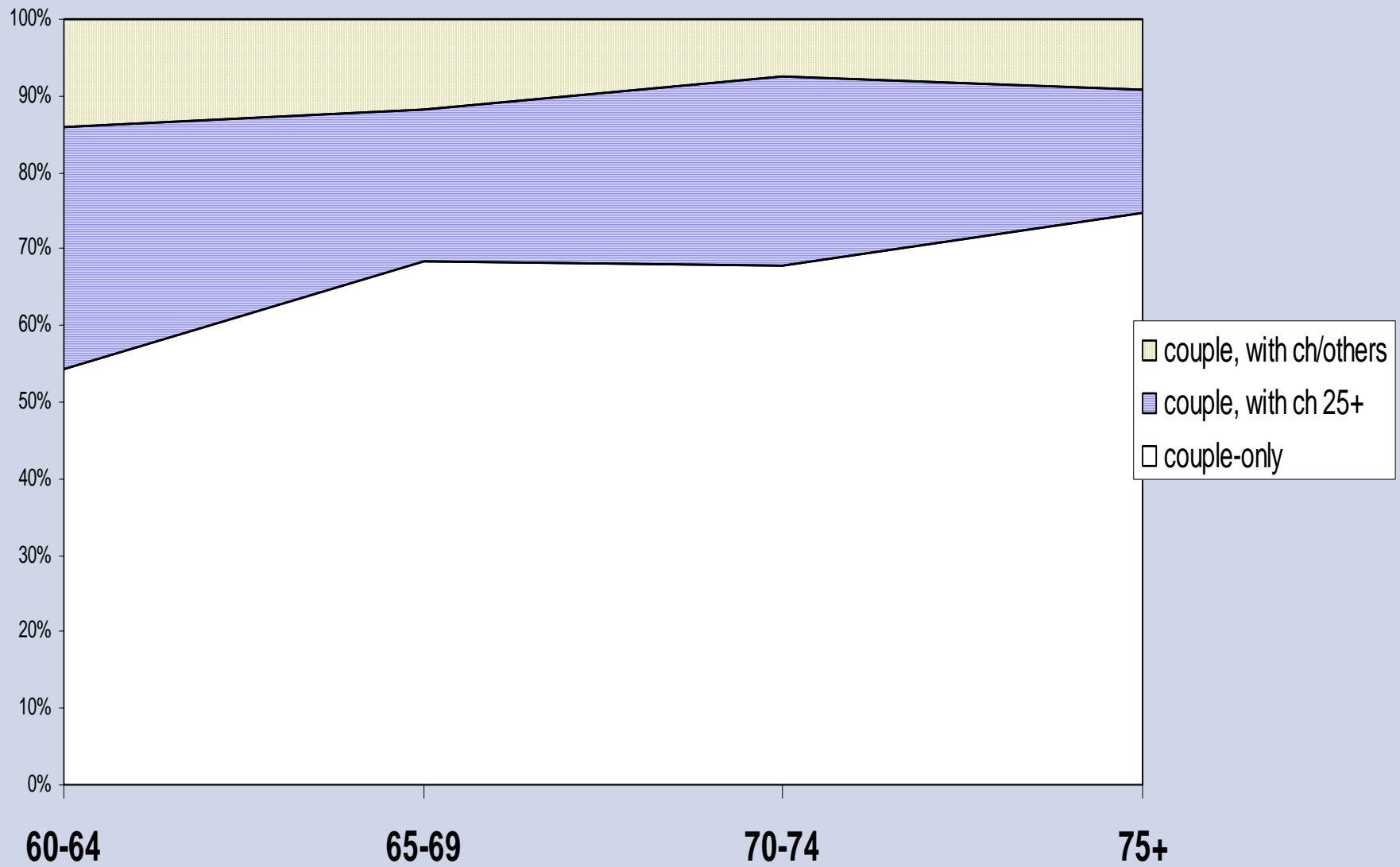
Household composition by age; men 60+ without partner, Russia (GGS, weighted data)



Household composition by age; women 60+ with partner, Russia (GGS, weighted data)



Household composition by age; men 60+ with partner, Russia (GGS, weighted data)



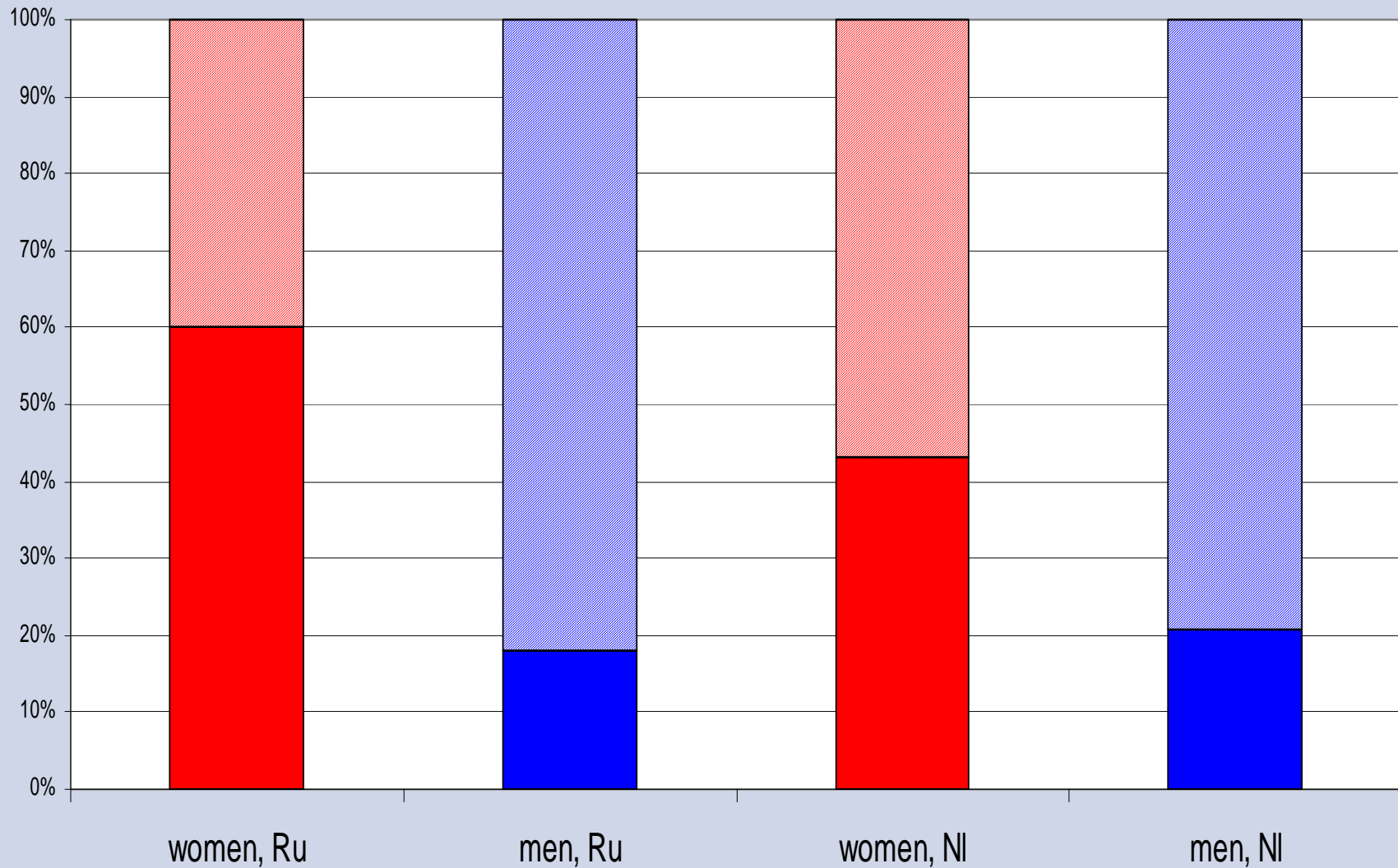
Gender differences in living arrangements in later life are strongly related to living **with or without (marriage) partner**

- Gender differences in life expectancy
- Gender differences in age at marriage (first and second marriage/ cohabitation)
- Gendered patterns of repartnering

// Joëlle Gaymu et al, 2006, Eur J Population

and country variations in this respect:

**Women and men aged 60 and over by partner status, Russia and the Netherlands
lower part without partner, upper part with partner (GGS/ NKPS, weighted data)**



Living arrangements → → familial support

Living arrangements are crucial in investigating social integration of older adults within the family

I

What about older adults ideas/ attitudes

- re familial support and
- re co-residence?

“Children should live with their old parents”

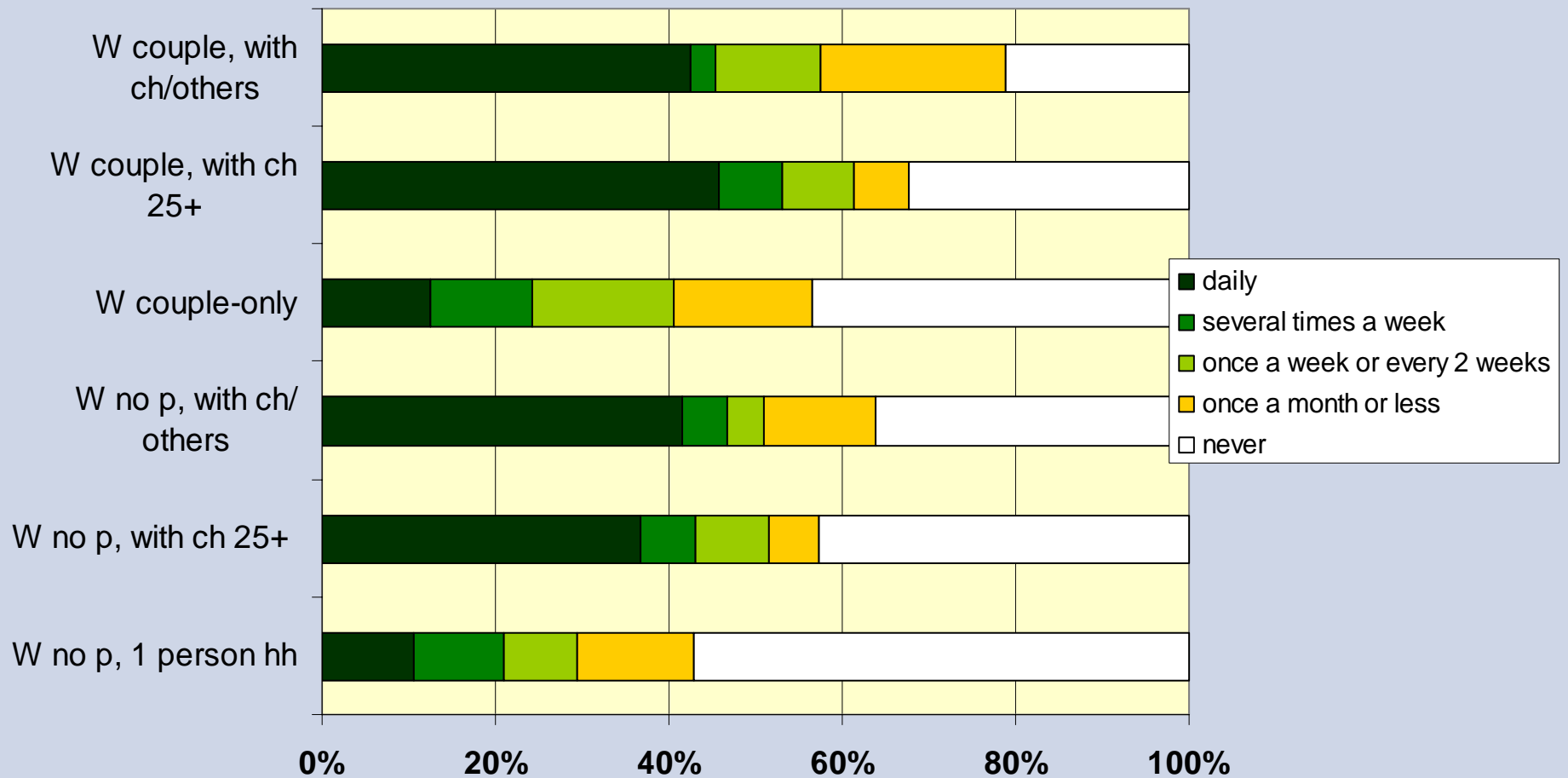
1 = strongly agree 5= strongly disagree (means)

	Ru women	Ru men	NI women	NI men
	**		***	**
Couple, with children aged 25+ in hh	2.00	2.16	3.70	3.47
Couple only	2.29	2.26	4.15	3.92
No partner, with children aged 25+ in hh	2.02	2.02	3.75	-
No partner, alone	2.20	2.24	4.00	3.70

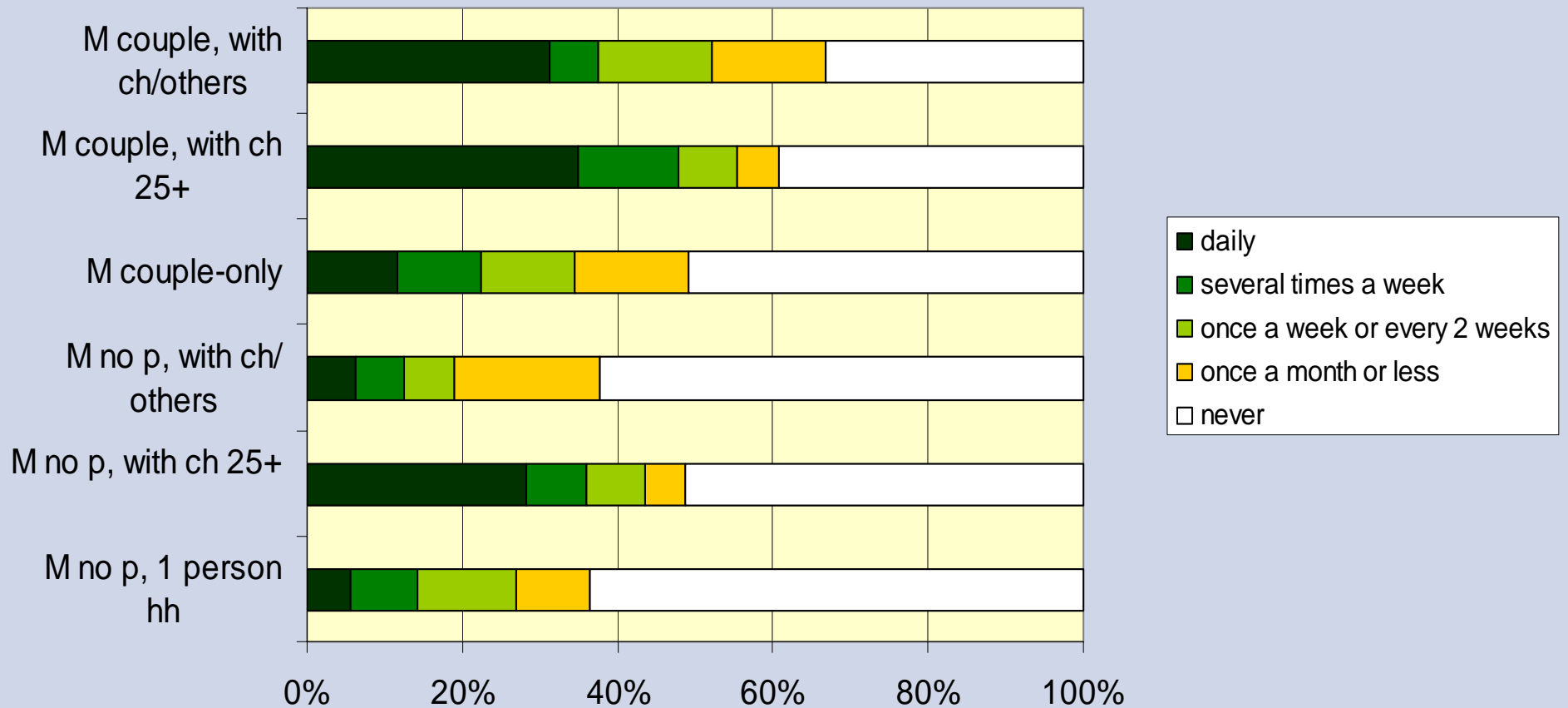
The literature based on research in the U.S. and Western Europe shows that older adults do provide a lot of support to younger generations

- The GGS dataset adds information on Eastern European countries:

**Women aged 60 and over looking after grandchildren, if grandchildren alive
(GGS Russia, n=1644)**



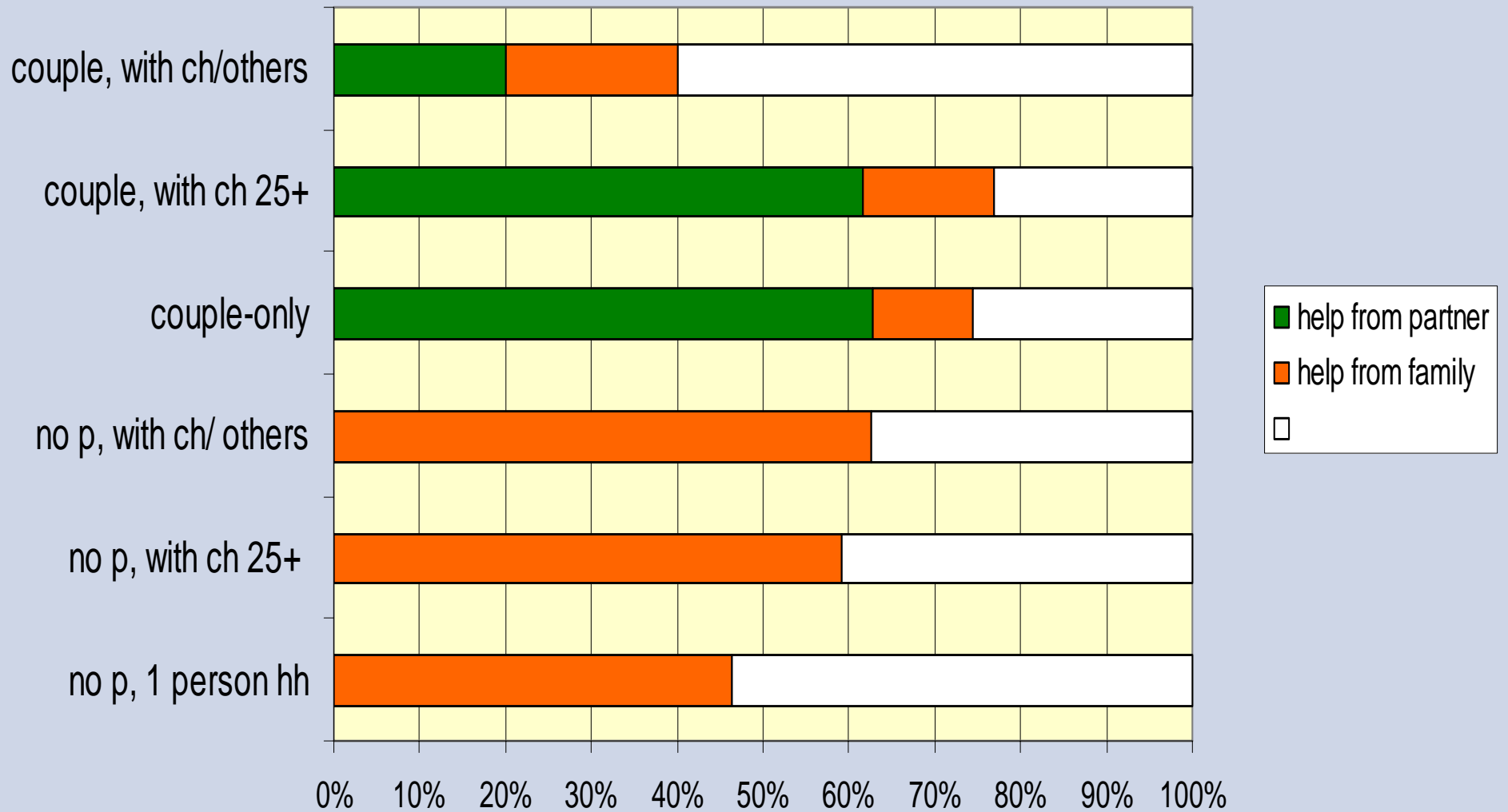
Men aged 60 and over looking after grandchildren; Russia (GGS, n= 745)



- The literature based on research in the U.S. and Western Europe shows that older adults can rely on others if help is needed

Data for older adults in the Russian Federation (GGS):

Support received if help is needed? Russian women and men aged 50 and over (GGS Russia, n=183)



conclusion:

- Support is given primarily by the partner
-- on a daily basis!!
- If no partner in the household, the children step in!!
- But, those without partner are more at risk than older adults with partner
- Especially, those living alone are at risk



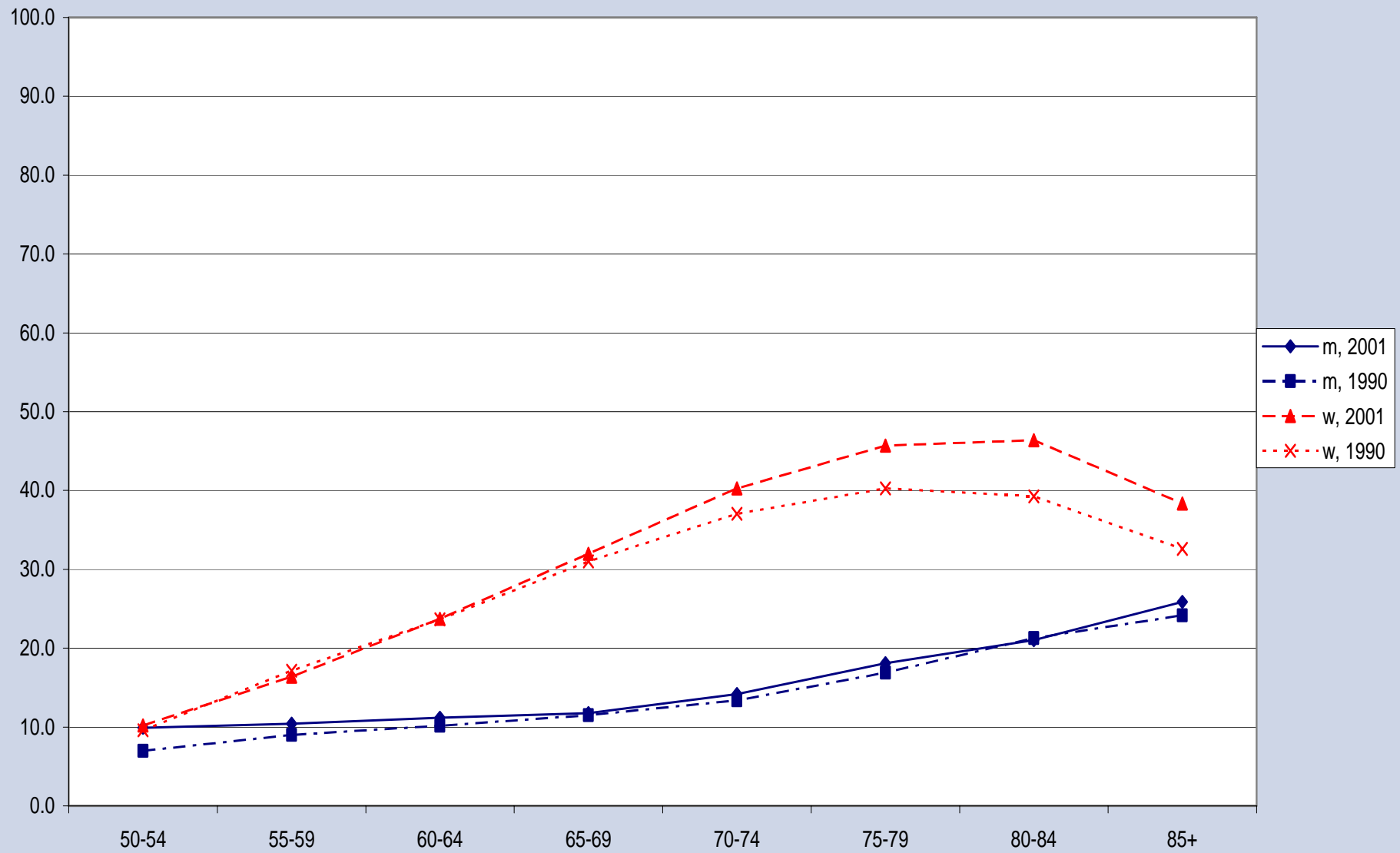
older women

Some policy questions and considerations:

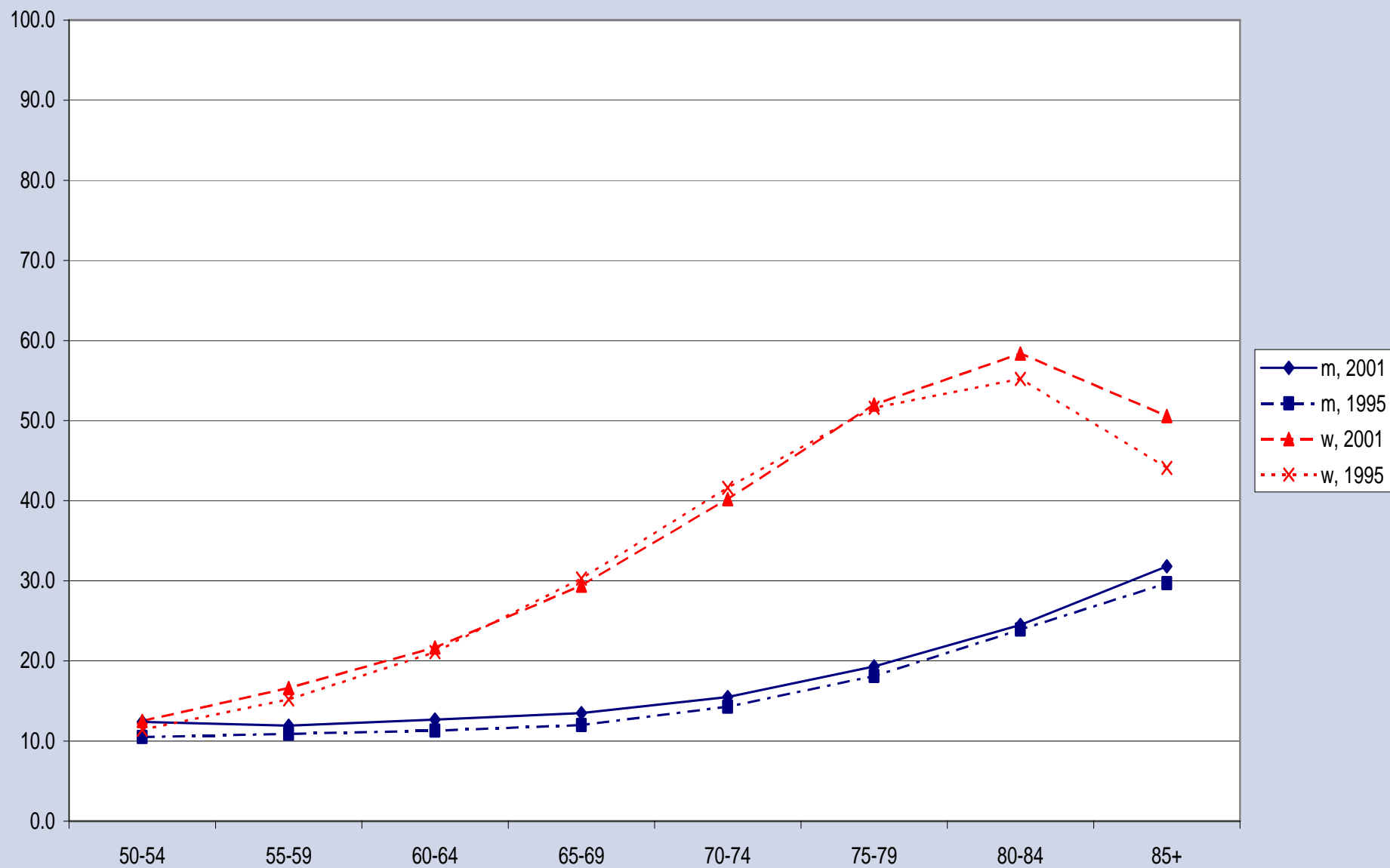
- Given that women alone are at risk, what can be said about future options and trends?
 - Will living in small residential units increase?
 - Will living alone increase?

2 sets of trend research.....

Figure 3. Older adults living in one-person households, in percentages of the population of women and men by age categories. Hungary, 1990-2001



**Figure 4. Older adults in one-person households, in percentages of the population of women and men by age categories.
Netherlands, 1995-2001**





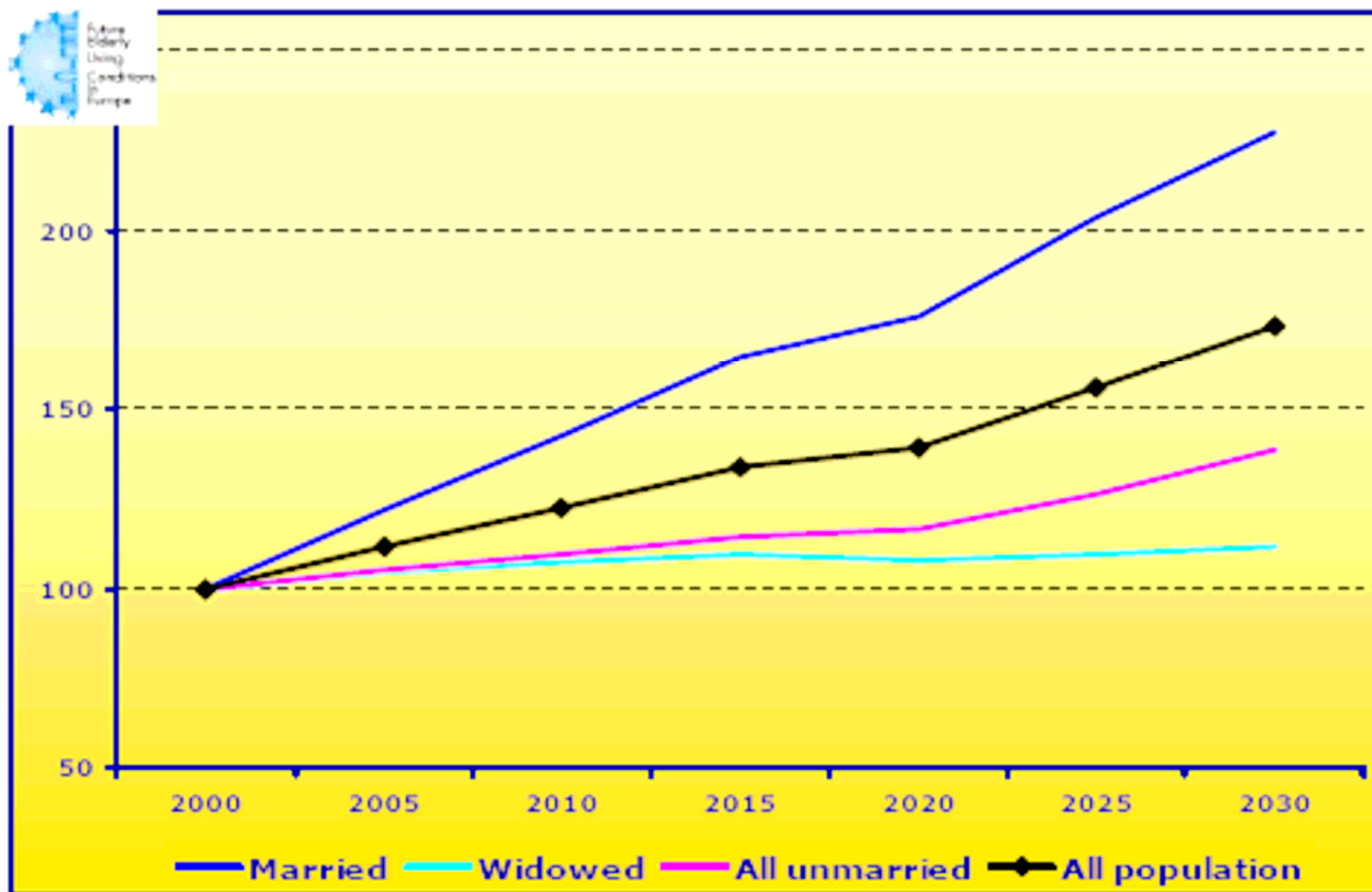
- Felicie is a cooperative project of demographic institutes in 9 EU-countries
- Paid by the EU program
‘QUALITY OF LIFE’



Aim

→ to prepare a multivariate prognoses
of the living arrangements of
people aged 75 and over
from now to 2030
in relation to care and support needs

Population aged 75+ from 2000 to 2030 (2000=100) by marital status (all countries)



Felicie conclusions:

- Those 75 and over in 2030 will be better off than those aged 75 and over in 2007
- Relationship 'ageing – need for support' will develop by 100: 75

Gijs Beets et al, 2006

- But:

But:

What about the percentage of **women** living alone?

Will the trends in Western Europe be the same as the trends in **other regions**?

Who will care for the extra numbers of people aged 75 and over? **Daughters** in the labour force, aged 50/55 and over?



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Thank you for your attention!