



Generations &
Gender Programme



Impacts of Global Crises on Families

... on expected living standards

... on fertility intentions

... on timing of intended births

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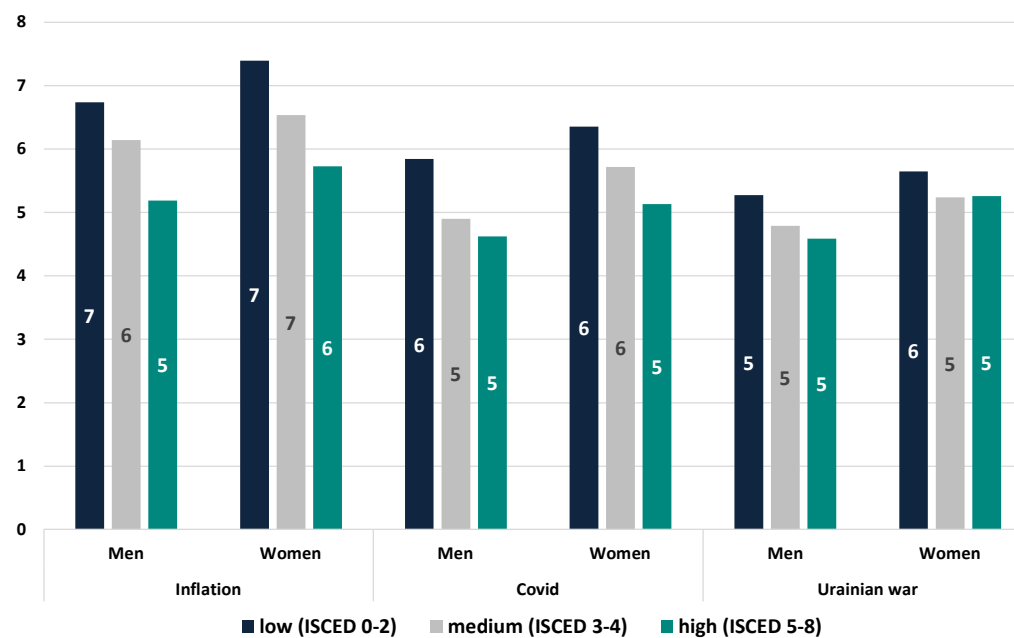
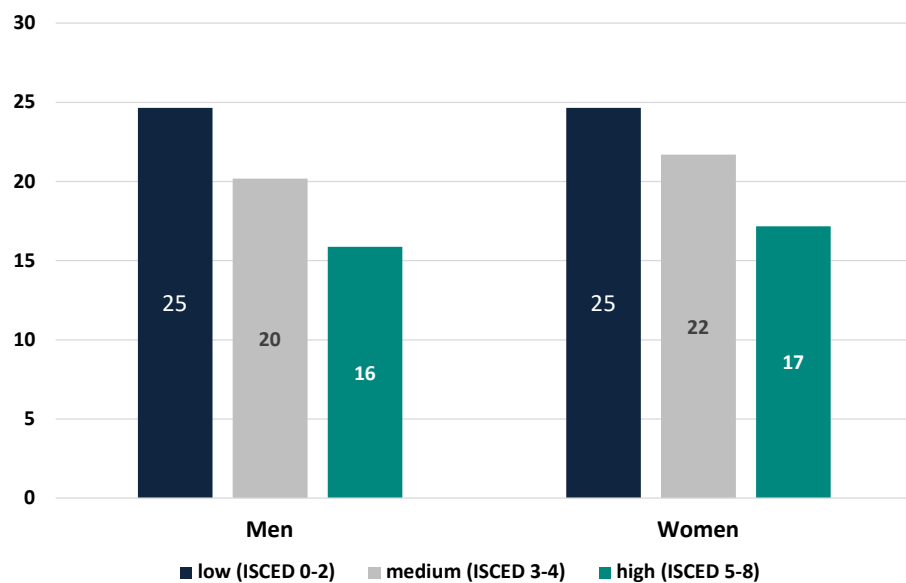
Aim of the Study – Research Question

Following **Richard Easterlin's hypotheses** on the interconnection of couples' **expected standard of living** and their **fertility** we set up a model to verify this behaviour. In times of **shocks** by several crises (inflation, pandemic and war) **the expectations** of fertile couples **on their standard of Living (SoL)** could **fall below** their **aspiration level** – often determined by the standards of living these adults have had during their childhood. The higher the **risk** that **SoL fall quickly**, the **higher** the **expected response in** a decline of **fertility**. Therefore, the **fall in fertility** we see over decades could **accelerate significantly**.

With **GGP.at** we have set up a **national module** addressing these assumptions. Therefore, we surveyed the impact of the crises on the respondents, asked if they expect **impacts on their living standards** in foreseeable future, and – that was quite challenging for the respondents – if they considered a **reduction in outstanding fertility**.



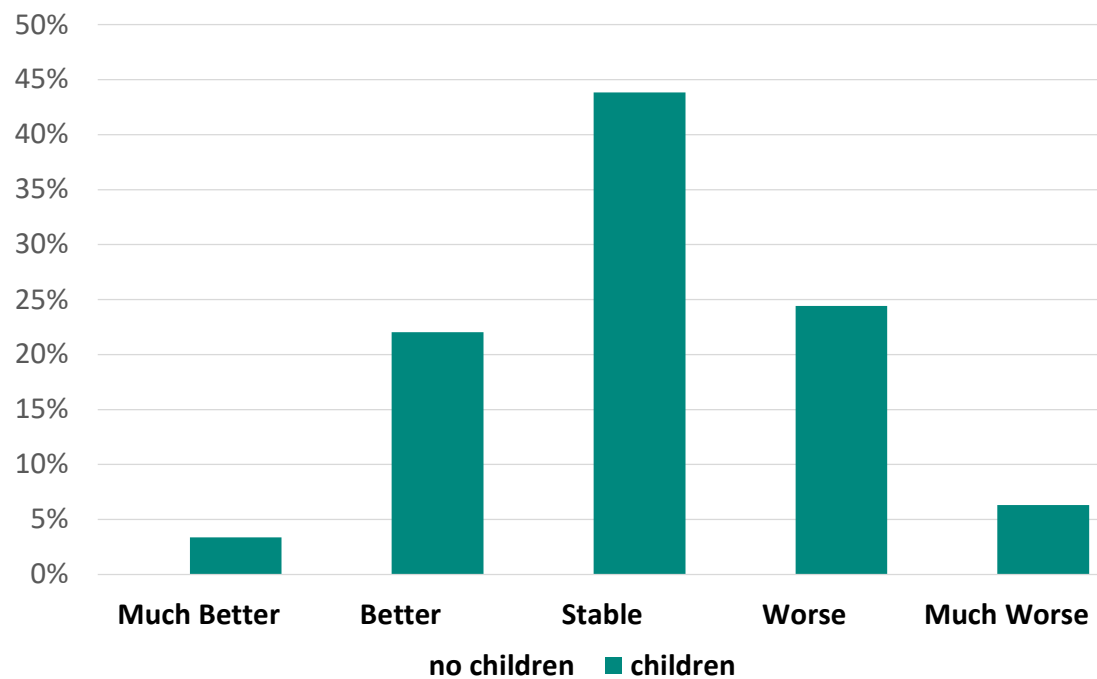
Some insights: Crises Impacts by Educational Level



Dörfler-Bolt/Wurm (2023)



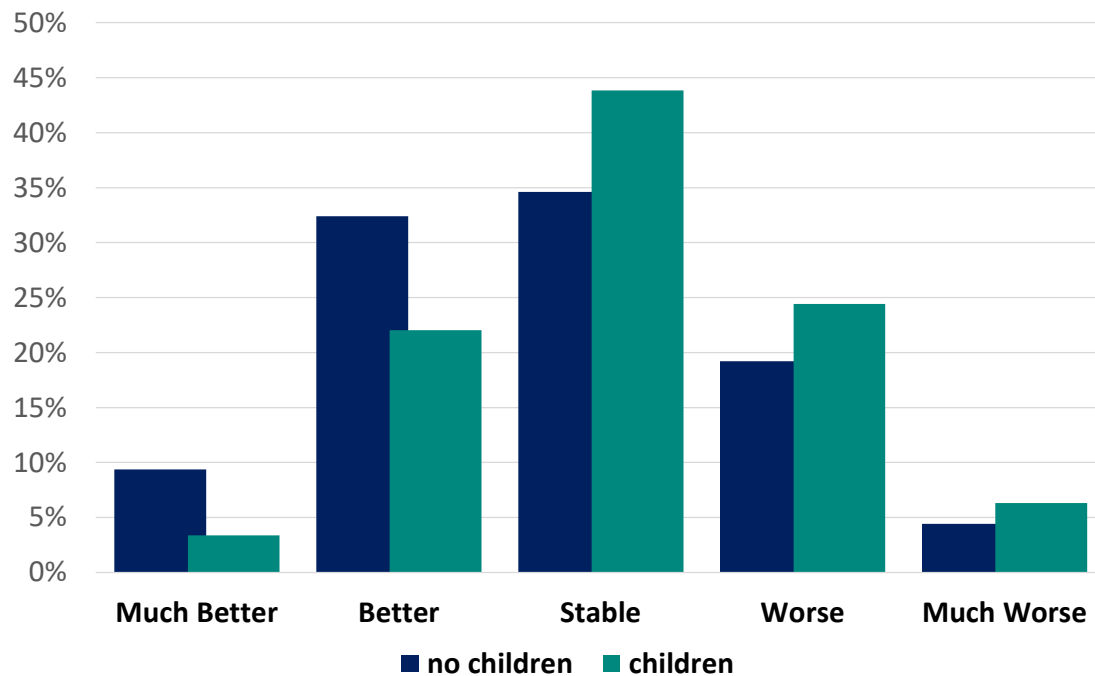
Expected Changes in Living Standards (1)



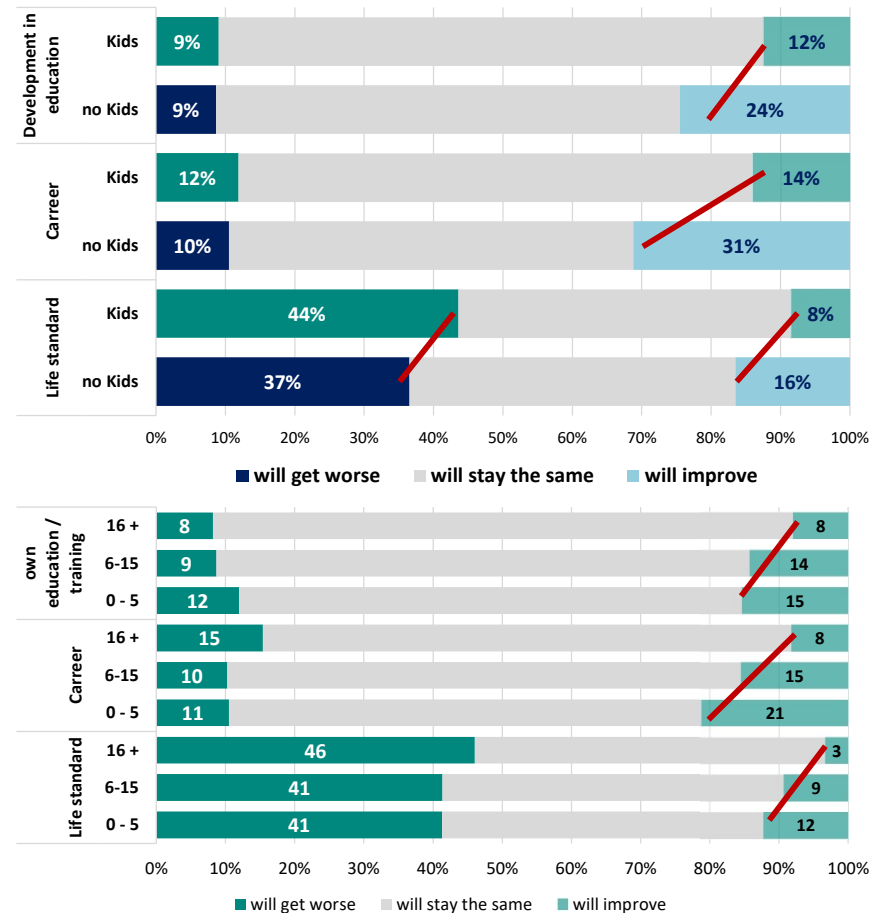
Neuwirth (2023)



Expected Changes in Living Standards (1)



**Parents seem to be more pessimistic!
Age component to be considered.**

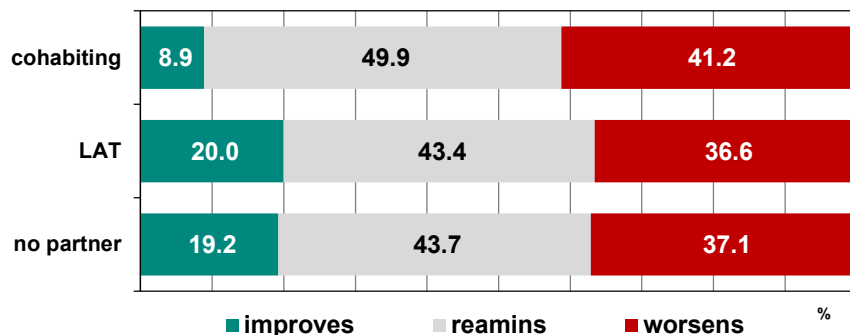


Neuwirth (2023)



Expected Changes in Living Standards (2)

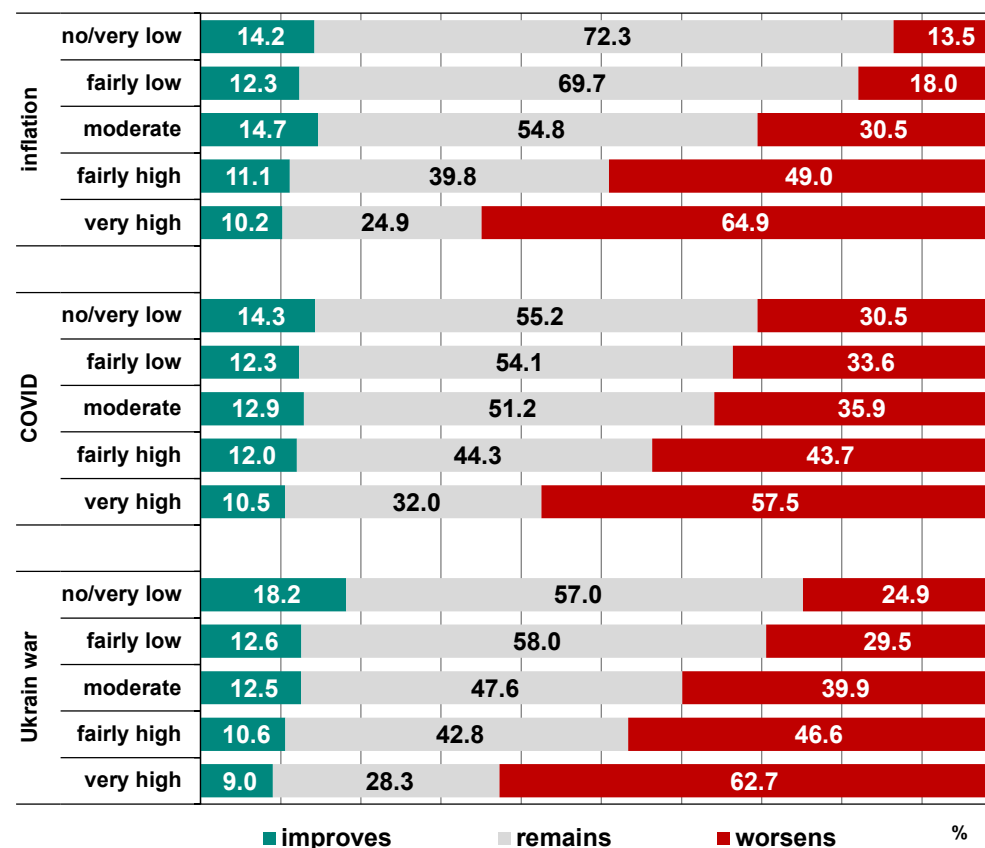
Expected Living Standards ⇔ *partnership*



Less optimistic in coh.partnership

Recent crises seem to be the driving factor on expectations on living standards

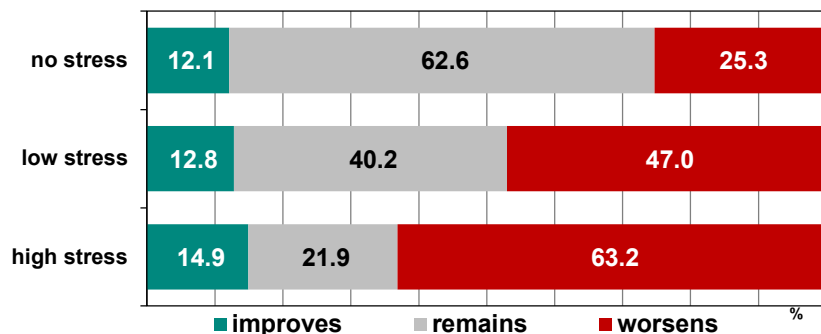
Expected Living Standards ⇔ *types of crises*





Expected Changes in Living Standards (3)

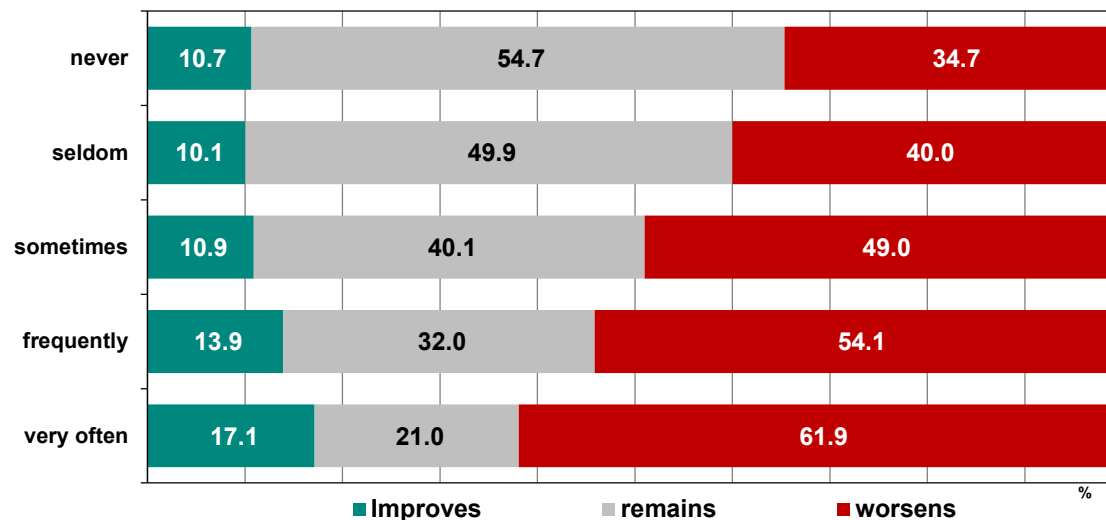
Expected Living Standards ↔ financial stress



Financial stress today widens pessimistic expectations ...

... but also rises some hope for improvement

Expected Living Standards ↔ Coupe disagreements on money



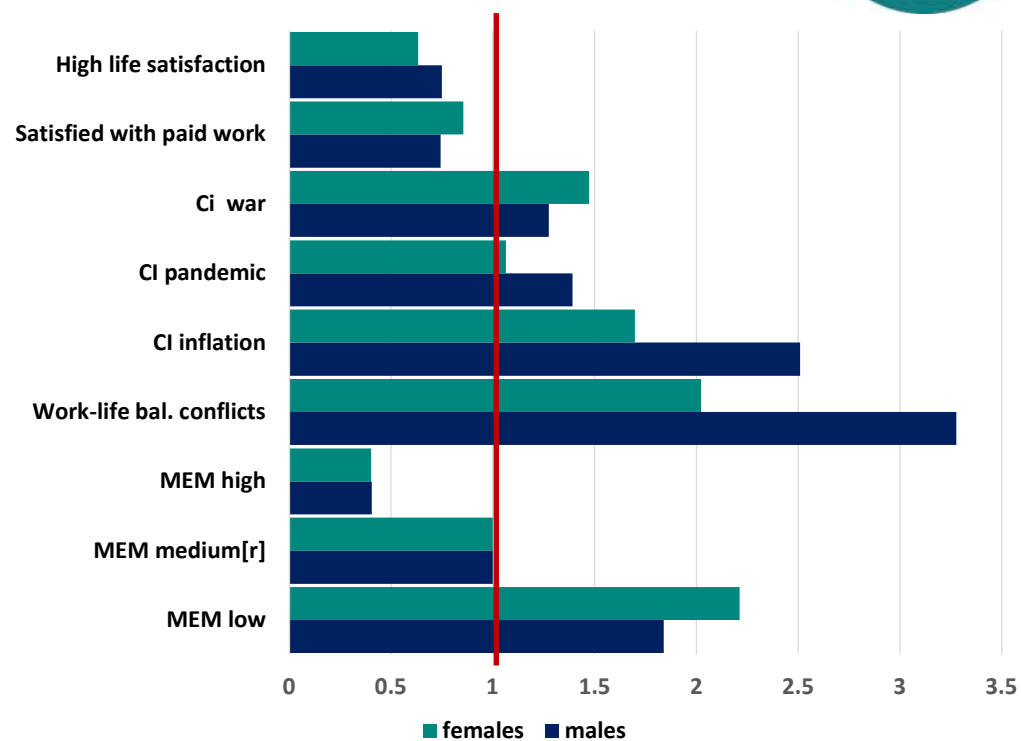
Expected Changes in Living Standards (4)

	all	males	females
constant	0,678 *	0,558 *	0,84
female	1,03	1	1
age: 18-24	0,478 ****	0,487 **	0,463 ***
age: 25-34	0,715 **	0,721 ^	0,718 *
age: 35-49	0,92	1,011	0,847 ~
age: 50-59 [r]	1	1	1
MEM low	1,978 ****	1,84 ****	2,212 ****
MEM medium[r]	1	1	1
MEM high	0,401 ****	0,405 ****	0,401 ****
Work-life balance conflicts	2,559 ****	3,277 ****	2,024 ****
CI inflation	2,07 ****	2,509 ****	1,698 ****
CI pandemic	1,198 *	1,391 **	1,064
Ci war	1,338 ***	1,275 ^	1,473 ***
Satisfied with paid work	0,799 **	0,743 **	0,855 ~
High life satisfaction	0,689 ****	0,75 **	0,633 ****
Rents a home	0,845 *	0,804 ^	0,924
Satisfied with living situation	0,764 **	0,769 *	0,772 *
N df	4081 18	1831 17	2250 17
Wald pR ²	427,25 0,134	226,33 0,151	252,17 0,128

Logistic Regressions; Odds Ratios

Sig. levels: ~ p<0.2, ^ p<0.15, * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, ***p<0.01, **** p<0.001

Controlled additionally for educational levels, number of former partnerships, form of partnership, same sex partnerships, migration, number of children



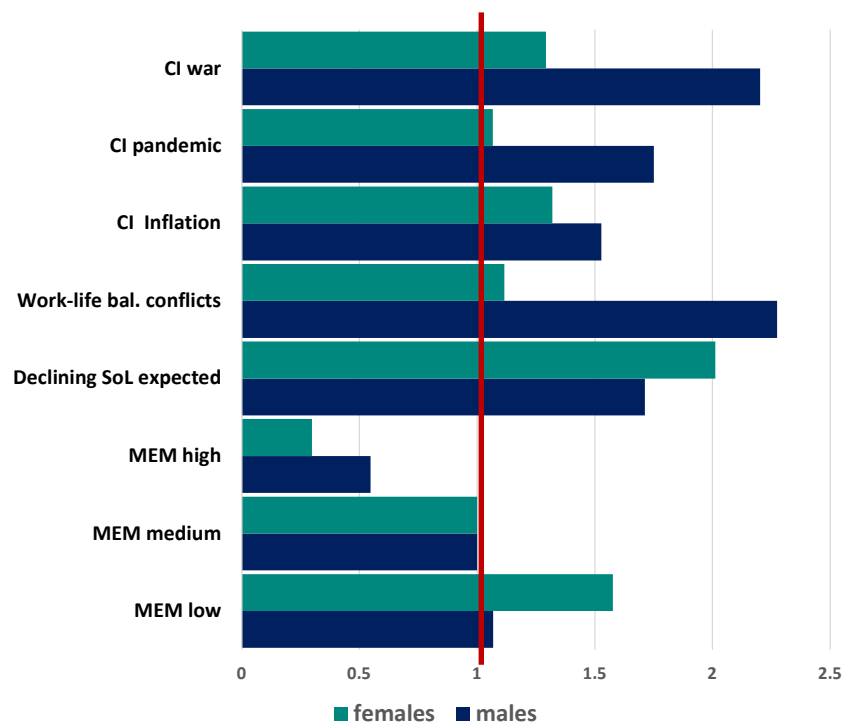
Impacts on Fertility Intentions

	all		males		females	
constant	0,189	****	0,174	****	0,256	****
female	1,325	**	1		1	
age: 18–24	0,764	~	0,549	*	1,042	
age: 25–34	1		1		1	
age: 35–44	0,51	****	0,595	**	0,413	****
no children [r]	1		1		1	
1 child	0,726	*	0,559	**	0,966	
2 children	0,395	****	0,37	***	0,461	**
3+ children	0,331	****	0,341	**	0,361	**
MEM low	1,293	^	1,068		1,577	**
MEM medium	1		1		1	
MEM high	0,436	****	0,547	*	0,298	****
declining SoL expected	1,916	****	1,713	**	2,012	****
work-life bal. conflicts	1,511	^	2,274	**	1,116	
CI Inflation	1,478	**	1,527	^	1,319	
CI pandemic	1,367	**	1,751	**	1,067	
CI war	1,678	***	2,202	****	1,292	
N df	2014 12		923 11		1091 11	
Wald pR ²	176,9 0,12		91,1 0,13		102,1 0,13	

Logistic Regressions; Odds Ratios

Sig. levels: ~ $p < 0.2$, ^ $p < 0.15$, * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$, **** $p < 0.001$

Controlled additionally for educational levels and migration





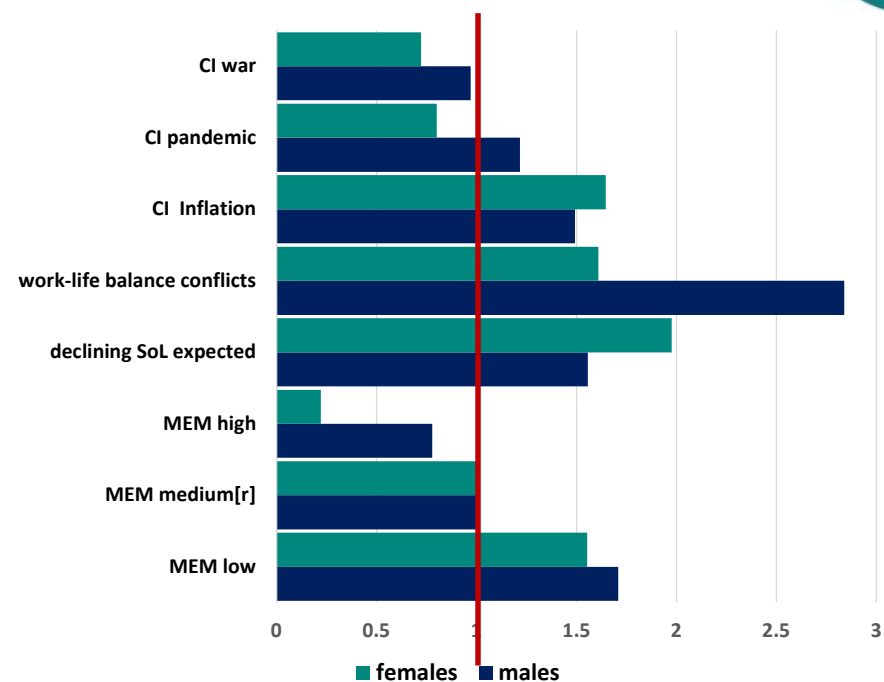
Impacts on Fertility Timing

		all		males		females	
constant	****	0,133	****	0,101	****	0,143	****
female		0,701	^	1		1	
age: 18–24	^	0,774		0,673		0,922	
age: 25–34		1		1		1	
age: 35–44	**	0,386	**	0,502	*	nv	
No children [r]		1		1		1	
1 child	***	0,563	*	0,524	^	0,766	
2 children	**	0,069	**	0,107	**	nv	
3+ children	^	0,452		0,412		0,591	
MEM low	****	1,64	*	1,709	^	1,553	
MEM medium[r]		1		1		1	
MEM high	***	0,532	*	0,778		0,221	***
declining SoL expected		1,749	**	1,557	~	1,976	*
work-life balance conflicts		2,242	*	2,839	*	1,609	
CI Inflation		1,542	^	1,492		1,647	
CI pandemic		1,058		1,217		0,801	
CI war		0,857		0,971		0,722	
N df	6	959	12	481	11	339	11
Wald pR ²	0,159	76,4	0,12	30	0,11	57,4	0,13

Logistic Regressions; Odds Ratios

Sig. levels: ~ p<0.2, ^ p<0.15, * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, ***p<0.01, **** p<0.001

Controlled additionally for educational levels and migration



In a nutshell ...



Living standards:

- **40%** of the population aged 18 – 59 show a reduced expected standard of living [SoL]
- The **lower** the SoL today, the **more pessimistic** the outlook for the future
- From a **societal perspective**, respondents therefore anticipate a **growing disparity in SoL**
- **Reconciliation conflicts** seem to sharpen the expectations in falling SoL.
- **Direct crises' impacts** on expected SoL traceable

Fertility intention:

- The personal experience with **recent crises** seemed to **dampen fertility intentions**
 - Directly – at least **males** reveal significant direct effects on their fertility intention
 - Indirectly – declining SoL dampens fertility intention for both – even **more for females**

Timing of remaining births:

- The **childless** tend to shift more; **some SoL-effect** tracable

Generations and Gender Programme Austria Consortium (GGP.AT)

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population and family dynamics and
provides evidence for population
policies.

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