

**EU Lifelong Learning Programme  
Grundtvig Learning Partnership project**



Association “To My Town Akniste” as a partner in the EU project “CORE” has begun investigating the exposures of patriarchal thinking in the modern society of Latvia to be able to compare the situation with the one in the project partner countries – Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy, United Kingdom and Lithuania.

The project team arranged an opinion poll on the issues of the project topic in Akniste in November-December 2013.

108 respondents – an equal number of male and female respondents of 3 age groups – up to 25, 26-50 and 50+. The questionnaires were anonymous.

## THE SUMMARY

### 1. How do you understand the term “patriarchal thinking”?

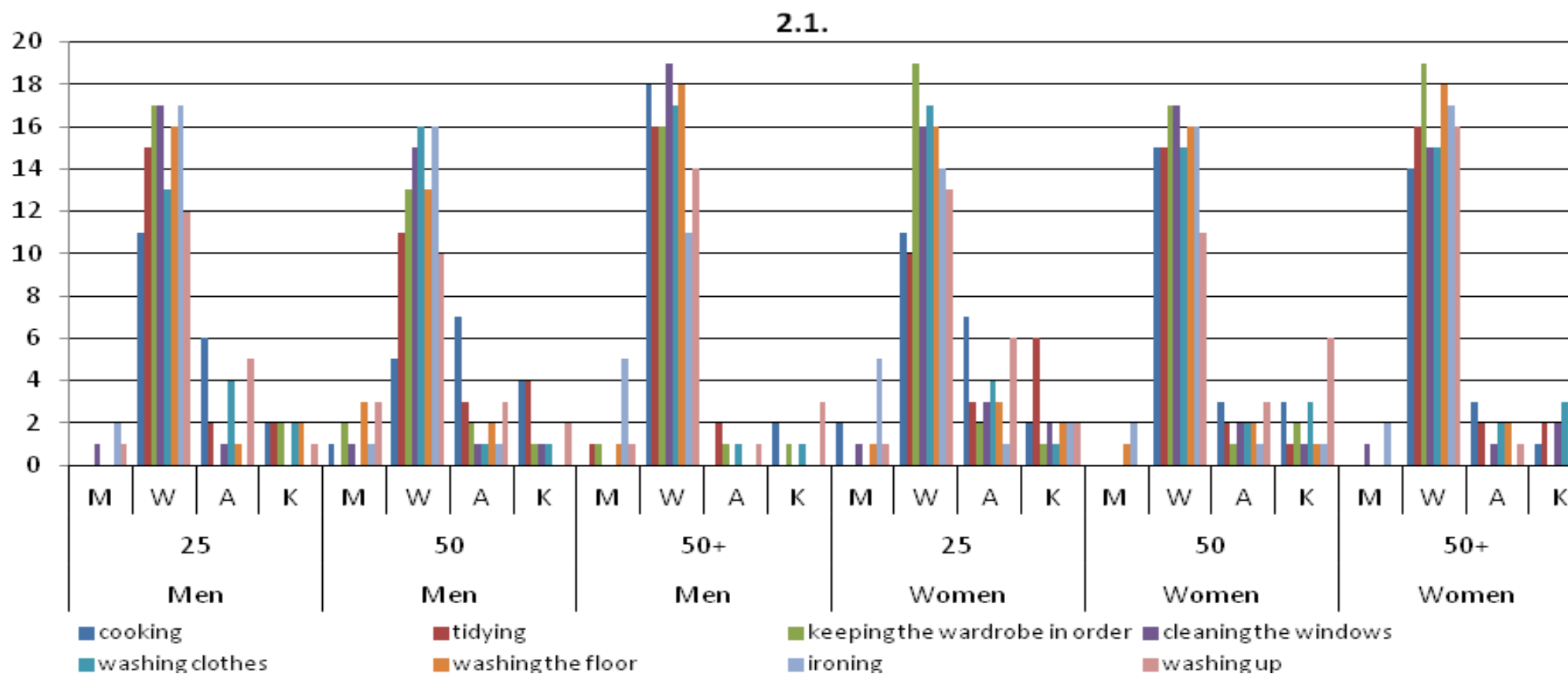
**The respondents hold the view that patriarchal thinking means that:**

N	Men`s view	Women`s view
1.	<p><b>A man holds the authority in the family.</b> One respondent remarks that nowadays it is not that important any more – both men and women share the responsibilities and housework.</p>	<p><b>Men hold the authority in the society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men set the rules and make decisions.</li> <li>- Men dominate in all spheres of life.</li> <li>- Women have a little say.</li> <li>- There is no gender equality.</li> </ul>

2.	<b>Men dominate in the society.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men make the most important decisions.</li> </ul>	<b>It is a social system where father is the main person in the family:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The system does not show disrespect to a woman, it even obliges a man to respect and to protect a woman.</li> <li>- A man is the provider of his family.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>A man`s logical way of thinking.</b>	<b>A man`s way of thinking.</b>
	14% of the respondents can`t explain the meaning of the term.	10% of the respondents can`t explain the meaning of the term.

## 2. Who in your/your parents` family generally does these home chores?

M-men; W-women; A- whoever has time; K- together



According to the data of the opinion poll, in Latvia there is still a distinct division of housework into traditionally female and male kinds. The men and women of all age groups admit that it is a woman who generally does the kinds of housework covered in this chart. Cooking, washing up and ironing in many families are shared, moreover, comparatively more women than men admit it.

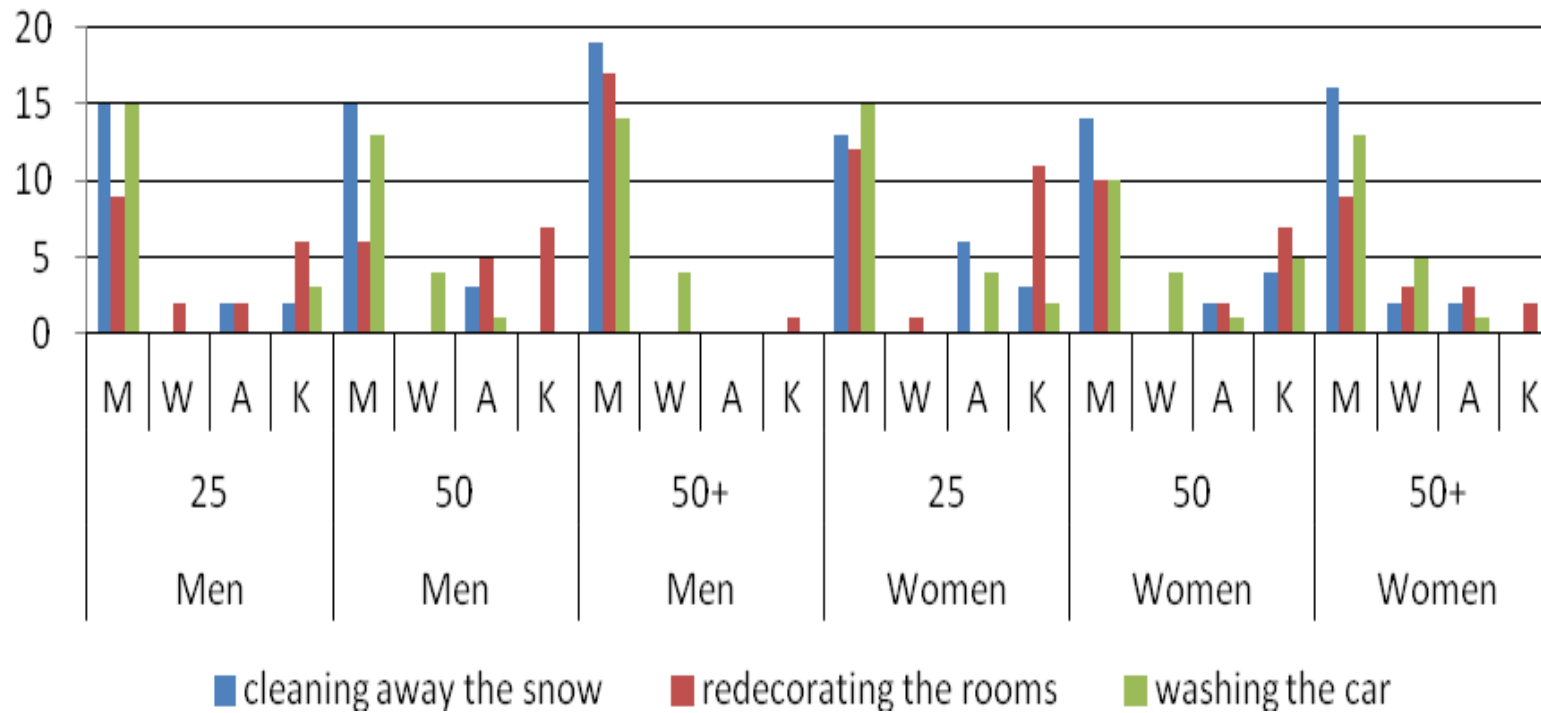


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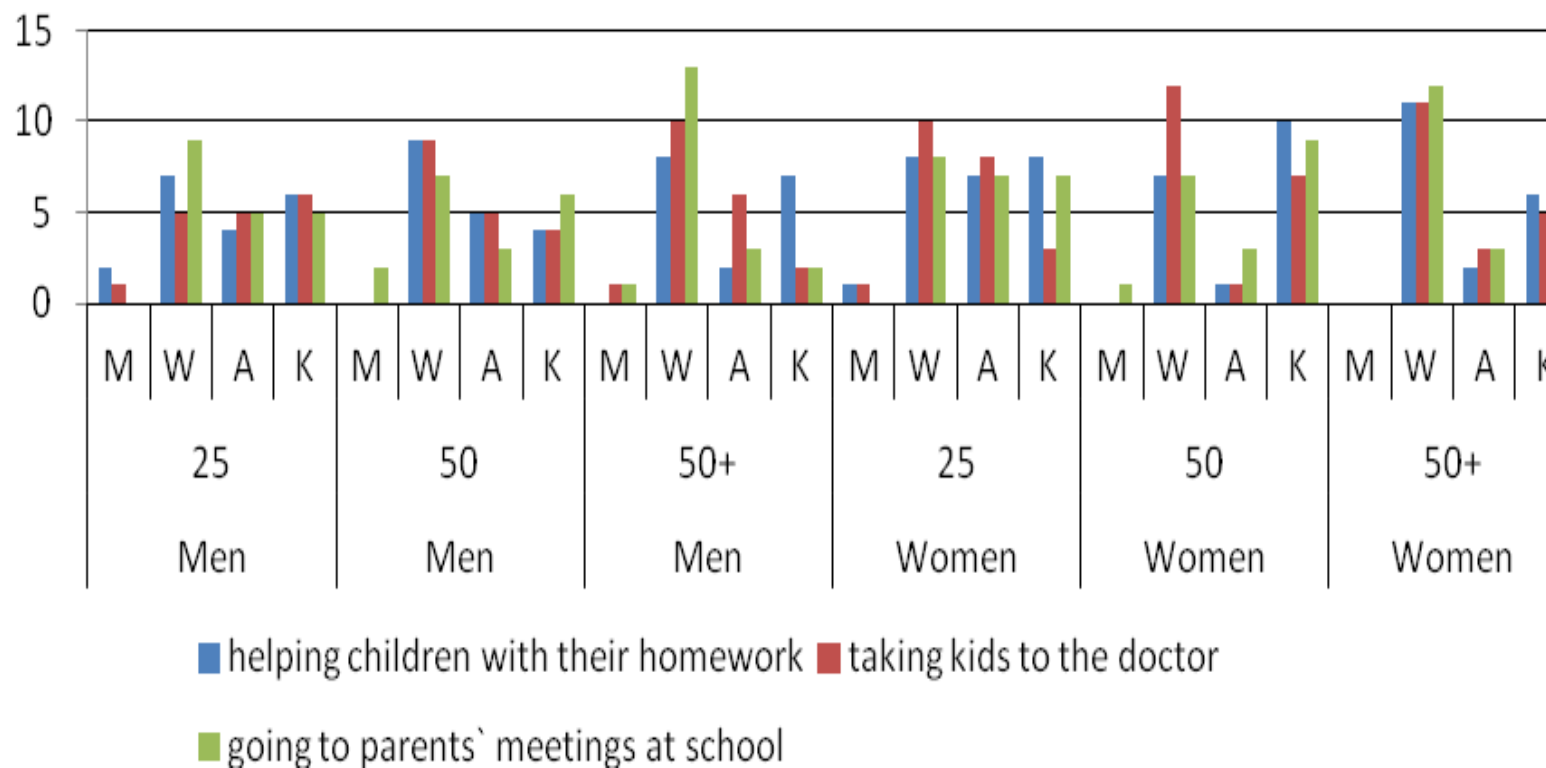
## 2.2.



In our society cleaning away the snow, redecorating the rooms and washing the car are typically male responsibilities irrespective of the age.

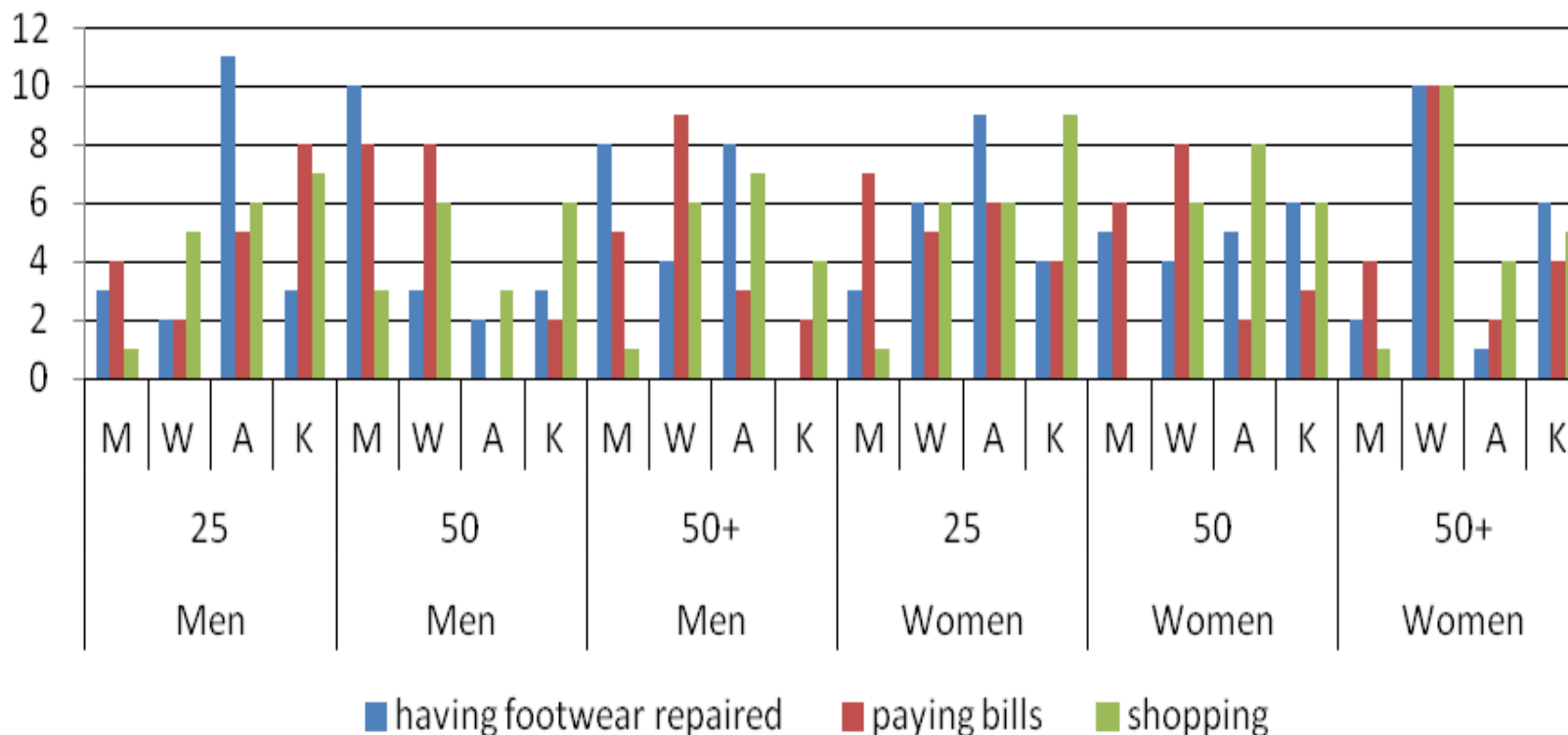
Generally women obtain a car after the age of 25 and then they start washing it. Until then they prefer redecorating the rooms.

## 2.3.



Both parents take part in the upbringing of their children, with an exception of the age group 50+. They already have their grandchildren then. Both men and women admit that children have been taken care of predominantly by women.

## 2.4.

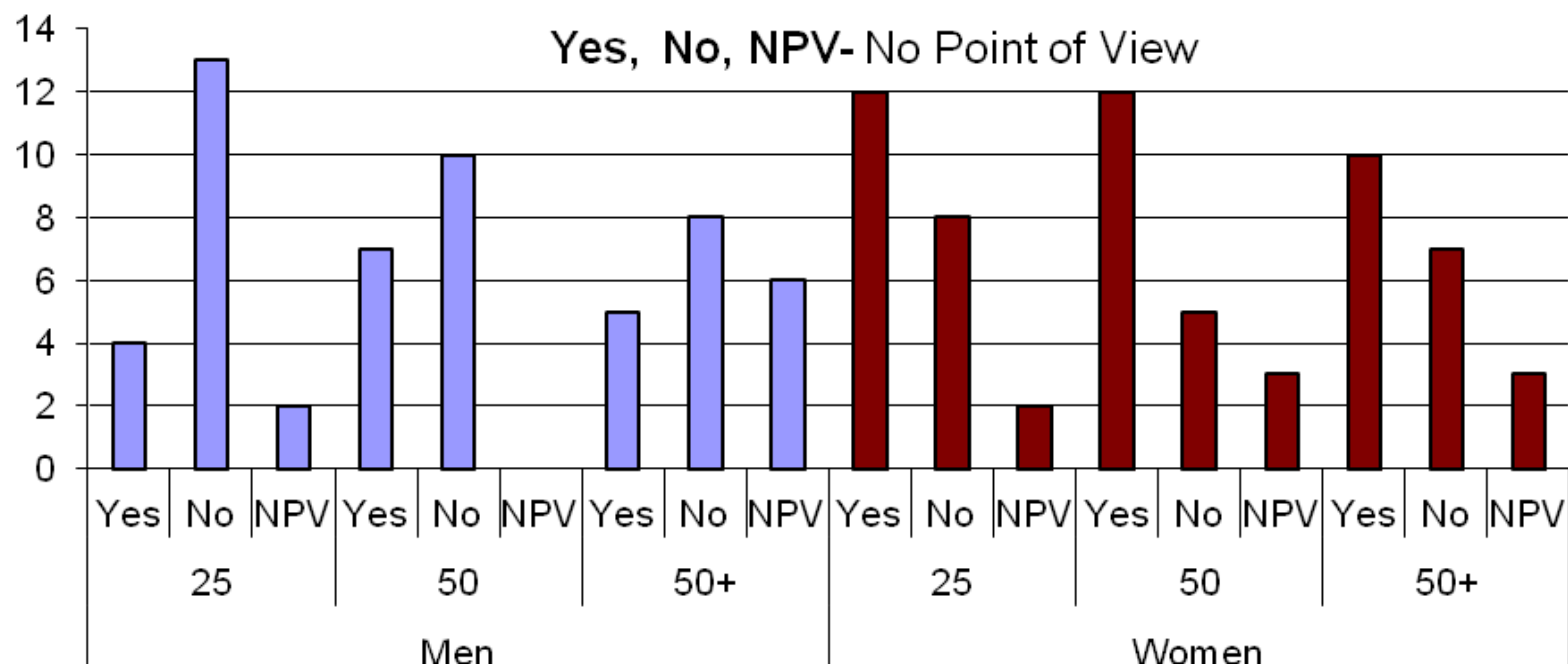


The respondents of all age groups admit that men do daily shopping not as often as women do, moreover, the younger the people are, the more often they do shopping together.

Paying bills and having footwear repaired are more or less equally often done. Irrespective of the gender, the one who has time has the footwear repaired. This tendency depends on the age – the older is the respondent, the more there is work that is done together.

Everybody takes part in paying bills, women having a tendency of becoming more active in performing this at the age of 50+.

### 3. Do you agree that in Latvia the amount of a salary depends on the gender?



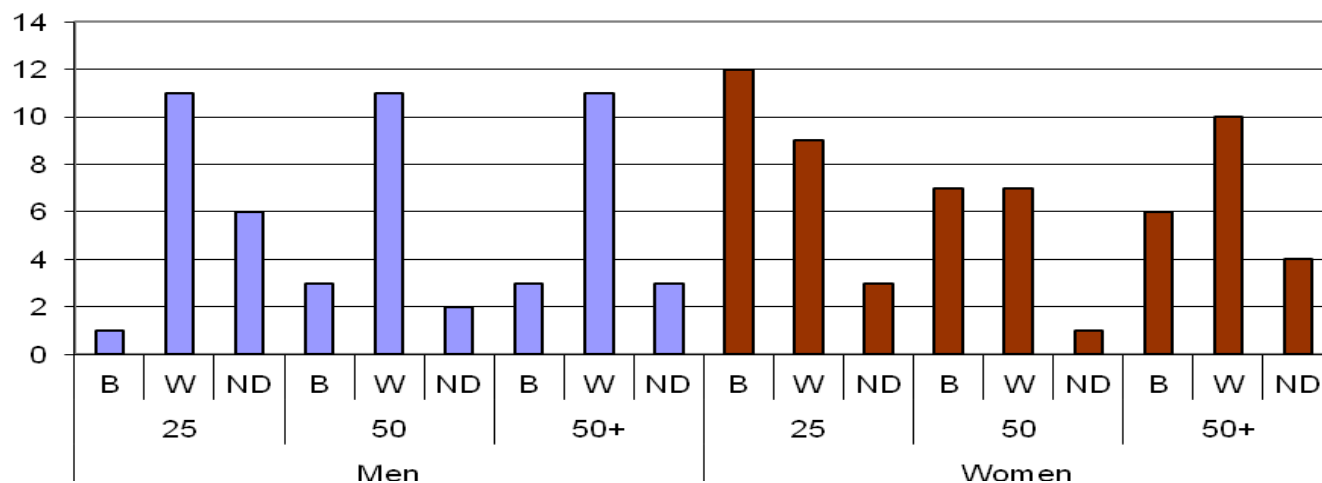
In all the age groups the men`s and the women`s views on the dependence of the amount of a salary on one`s gender are completely opposite: the men deny the existence of such a problem in Latvia while the female respondents are aware of it.

Men are more confident of being able to earn a good salary, women face the reality that they can earn less as they do the jobs that are usually less paid, such as librarians and teachers at nursery schools. The answers show their personal experience, especially of those living in the countryside.

It would be worth investigating if doing the same job the salaries for people of both genders are the same. Due to ethetical reasons it was not done in the present opinion poll.

#### 4. What would be the governing of Latvia like if there were more women involved in politics?

Better, Worse, No Difference



The views on this issue have a distinct female or male flavour – the men of any age consider that women would be less successful than men in governing Latvia while women are in two minds on this.

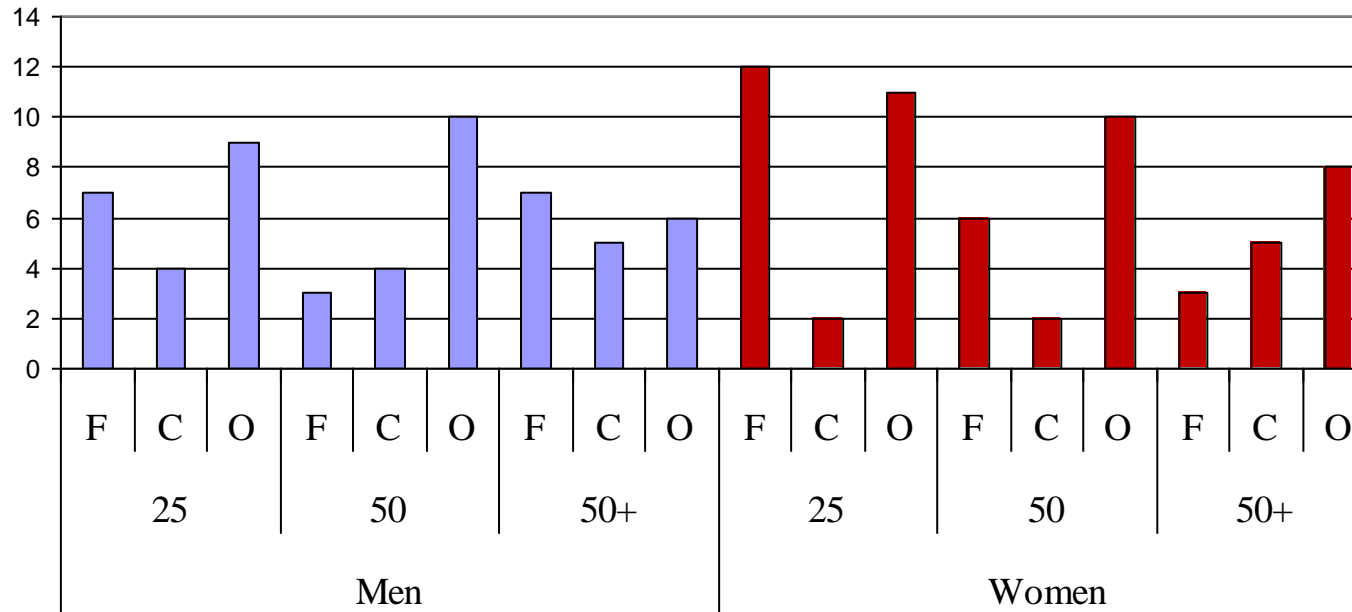
#### Respondents' comments

	Men's view	Women's view
<b>Better, as</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- women are less corrupted;</li> <li>- women would think more of the wellbeing in the family;</li> <li>- women have a more distinct sense of responsibility;</li> <li>- there is a difference in the way of thinking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- women think more about the future – about children;</li> <li>- women are more creative;</li> <li>- women have a more distinct sense of responsibility;</li> <li>- women's interests would be more respected with a female president .</li> </ul>
<b>Worse, as</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the main attention would be paid to minor issues leaving the national interests behind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- women are too emotional – would be less rational decisions;</li> <li>- men have more respected.</li> </ul>
<b>No difference, as</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- there are many women in politics nowadays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is knowledge and skills that matter in management;</li> <li>- there are both men and women in politics.</li> </ul>



## 5. Where do Latvian women feel safe and secure?

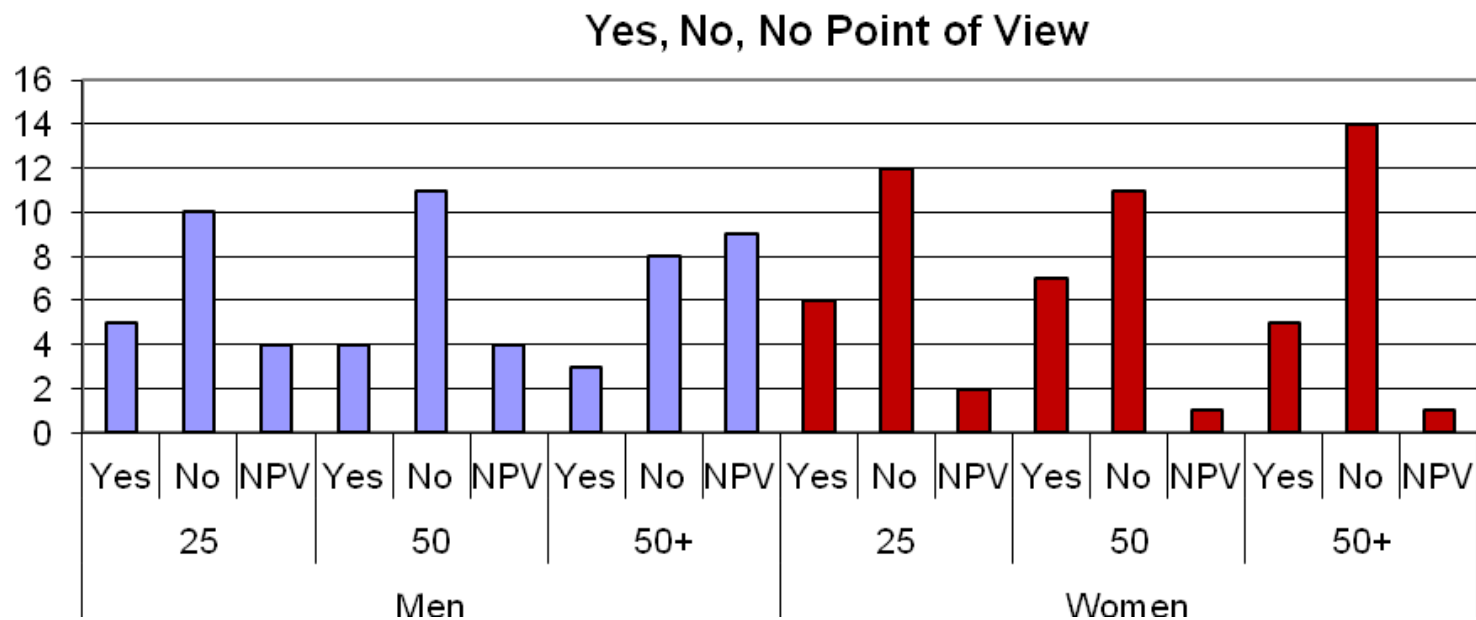
F-Family, C-Community, O - Other



The younger the women are, the more safe they feel in their family. Being under the protection of the father?

Men think that women feel safer outside the family. It is interesting that women hold the same view.

## 6. Do you consider there are misogynist materials in mass media in Latvia?

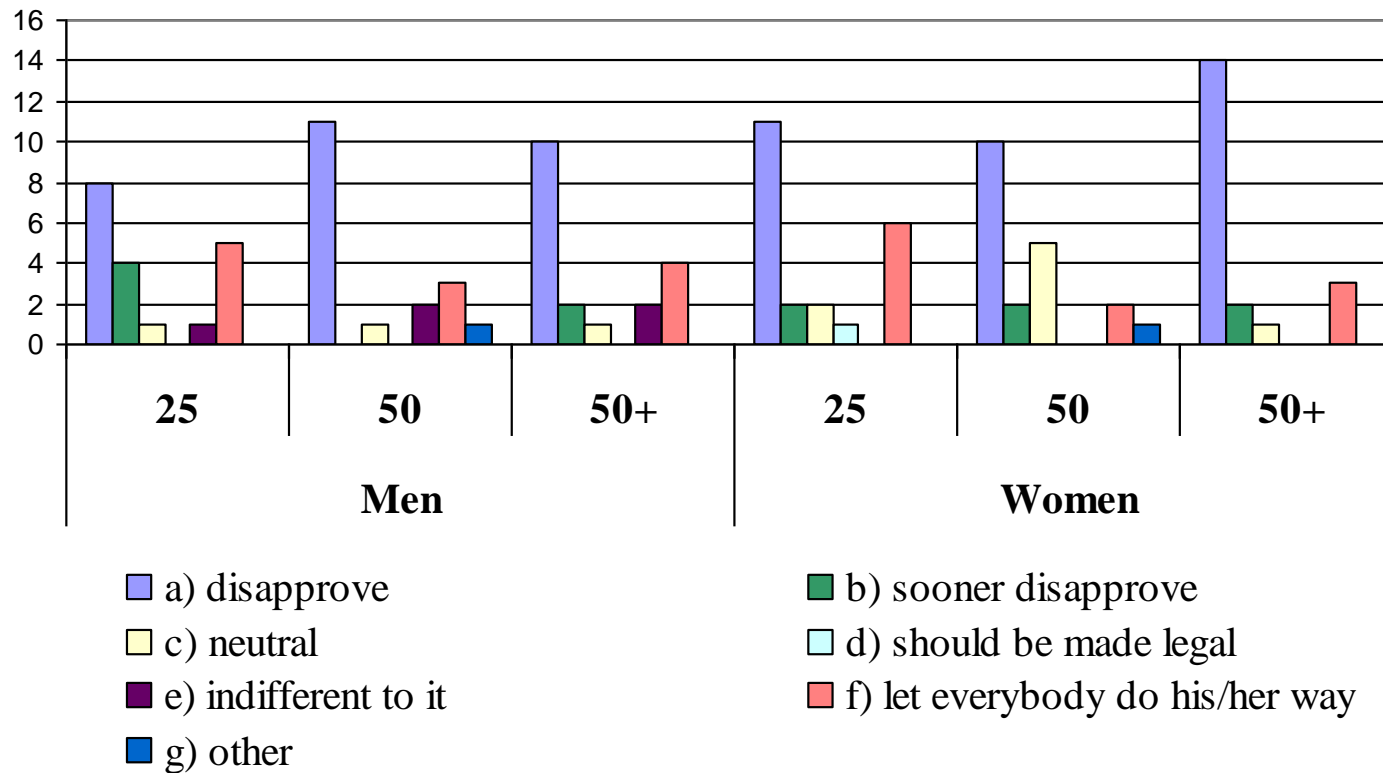


Both men and women hold the view that there are no misogynist materials in mass media in Latvia. Still there are more positive answers among the female respondents. They seem to be more emotional as they recognize themselves in the materials.

Men more often than women have no point of view on this issue.



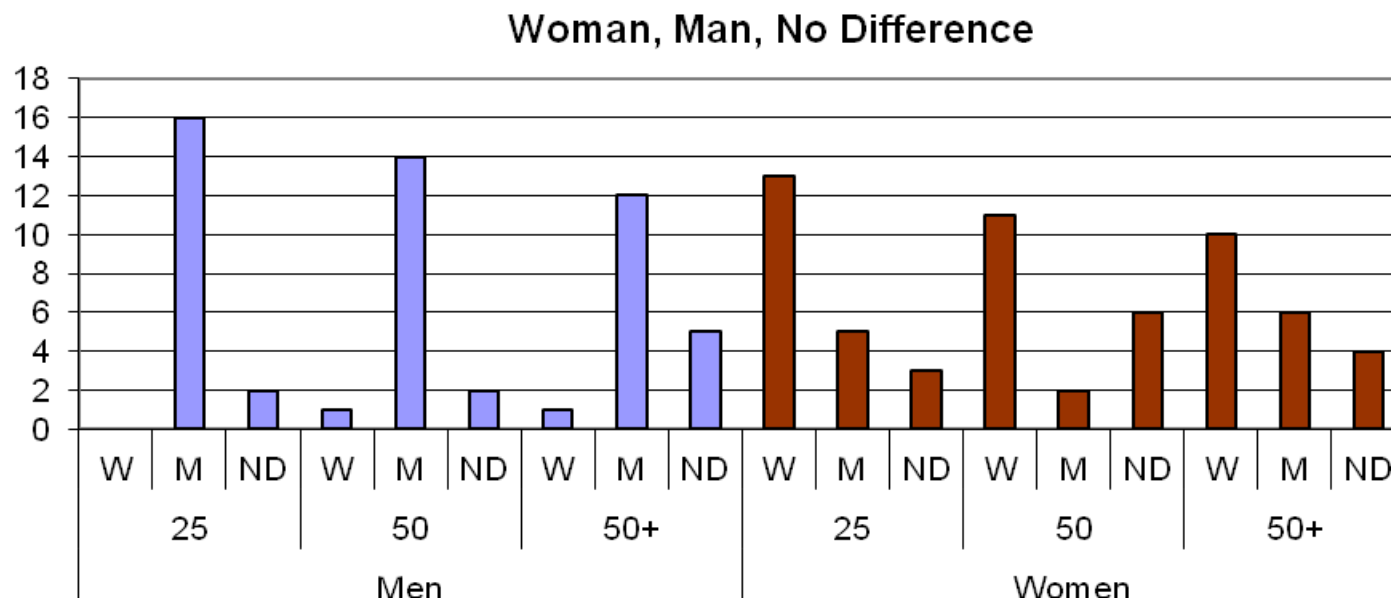
## 7. What is your view on unisexual relationships?



Our society does not approve of unisexual relationships, of demonstrating sexual relationships in public in general. The disapproval is the stronger, the older the respondents of both genders are.

A number of youngsters under 25 have a view that everybody should be allowed to have his or her choice.

## 8. If you could be born once more, would you prefer to be a man or a woman?



It appears that women are more dissatisfied with their present sex as they say that they would be happier if they could be men. Men have a stronger position in life, even in their imagination.

### Respondents` comments

Men`s view	Women`s view
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is nothig bad about being a man.</li> <li>- It is eually good to be of either sex.</li> <li>- The health is that really matters, not the sex.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A man has an easier life.</li> <li>- A man can be cunning.</li> <li>- I am happy as I have a good family and my children.</li> </ul>



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13



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