

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AT THE LEVEL OF EU STATES

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Abstract:

Domestic violence is a scourge that exists and claims victims even in the most democratic and civilized states, with women being particularly affected. The number and shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (IPV) continue to register significant values determined by a multitude of factors, from patriarchal norms and popular cultural specificities, to economic and social conditions. Given these aspects, based on the results of EU surveys on gender-based violence against women, with 2021 as the base year, similarities and disparities between EU states were analyzed, highlighting the impact of age, degree of urbanisation and level of education on the incidence of IPV against women. The results obtained lead to the conclusion of a diversity of behaviours, the three factors taken into account leading to the formation of groups of states with contradictory behaviors. At the level of EU states, there is no common characteristic regarding the influence of age, degree of urbanisation or level of education on the incidence of IPV. Consequently, reducing the incidence of IPV requires the adoption of specific measures for states and groups of states.

Keywords: domestic violence, intimate partner violence, age groups, degree of urbanization, educational level

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1. INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence IPV against women continues to be a scourge of the contemporary world. This is all the more worrying as its scale in domestic life continues to be significant. IPV is influenced by a series of factors including the patriarchal norms prevailing in the family, the specific characteristics of popular culture, the neoliberal ideology of extreme individualism (Petrunov, 2025), the lack of communication (Rada, 2020), socio-economic conditions, age (Sánchez-Prada et.al, 2020), attitudes towards gender, and last but not least the restrictions on free movement imposed in exceptional situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic. All of these lead to impacts of varying degrees, from one state to another, and with direct consequences on national social and economic systems (Benocci, 2025).

Regarding the attitude towards gender, the opinions of various authors regarding intimate partner violence against women are relatively different. Thus, while some studies (Permanyer and Gomez-Casillas, 2020) suggest that IPV tends to be higher in countries with more gender equality “because the formation and dissolution of unions occur more often, and not because men are necessarily more violent”, other studies (Belén et.al, 2018; González and Rodríguez-Planas, 2021) highlight the fact that, in countries with greater gender equality “in which the state has involved more actors in the response to gender violence and in countries with family policies included in the Anglo-Saxon, Eastern European and Southern European typologies” the incidence of IPV against women is lower.

One factor that can reduce the likelihood of IPV is education level. Studies (Mosiño and Quintero, 2025; Raisa and Sadia, 2023) suggest that there is a negative correlation between women’s education level and the incidence of IPV against women, and that educational differences within couples have a negative influence on the incidence of violence. Equality of education level within the household, correlated with income equality, represents a significant barrier to IPV against women (Owiti, 2019)

The degree of urbanisation associated with material status is a factor in differentiating the intensity of IPV against women. There are also several points of view on this. A study conducted in India (Gaurav et.al., 2025) suggests that, at least in the short term, urbanisation is unlikely to be very helpful in the economic empowerment of Indian women, as urbanisation appears to increase the risk of IPV against women. On the other hand, a study conducted in Ethiopia (Amare et.al., 2024) suggests that urbanisation is a factor in reducing IPV against women, but that less materially privileged women gain less in terms of attitudes towards IPV compared to others in the process of urbanisation.

Home isolation policies, such as those determined by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, are also a factor contributing to the increase in VPI (Agüero, 2021; Plášilová et.al., 2021), reducing their consequences requiring multidisciplinary actions to support victims (Giusy et.al., 2022), especially since the effects of home isolation may persist in the medium term after the quarantine is lifted (Beigelman and Vall Castello, 2020).

Taking into account these aspects and the complexity of the factors that determine the incidence of IPV against women, the paper presents a comparative analysis of the similarities and disparities between the member states of the European Union regarding the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, according to age, degree of urbanization and educational level.

2. DATA SERIES AND METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the objective of the analysis, the paper is based on the data series resulting from the EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of interpersonal violence in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CPVAW, 2011) available in the Eurostat Database (EUDB, 2026), having as base year 2021, respectively: Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by age group (IPVAGE, 2025), Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by degree of urbanisation (IPVDU, 2025) and Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by level of education (IPVEL, 2025).

Table 1. The identifiers and meanings of the variables used in the analysis

SWHEV	The share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEV18	The share of ever-partnered women aged 18 - 29 who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEV30	The share of ever-partnered women aged 30 - 44 who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEV45	The share of ever-partnered women aged 45 - 64 who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEV65	The share of ever-partnered women aged 65 - 74 who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVCT	The share of ever-partnered women who live in cities and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVTS	The share of ever-partnered women who live in towns and suburbs and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVRA	The share of ever-partnered women who live in rural area and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVLE	The share of ever-partnered women who have less than primary, primary and lower secondary education and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVSE	The share of ever-partnered women who have upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner
SWHEVTE	The share of ever-partnered women who have tertiary education and who have experienced violence by an intimate partner

In order to highlight the disparities and similarities between EU countries according to age, degree of urbanisation and educational level, the data series included in the analysis were four data series corresponding to age groups (18-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-64 years and 65-74), three data series corresponding to degrees of urbanisation (Cities, Towns and suburbs, Rural area) and three data series corresponding to levels of education (less than primary, primary and lower secondary education, upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education and tertiary education), the variables used and their meanings are presented in Table 1.

Given that no data were available for Italy for any of the three degrees of urbanisation or for any of the three levels of education, only twenty-six out of the twenty-seven European Union countries were included in the analysis of disparities and similarities regarding IPV against women by degree of urbanisation and level of education.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of disparities and similarities between EU countries regarding the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV) was structured in four subchapters, one targeting the overall analysis of SWHEV and the other three targeting the influences of the analyzed factors (age, degree of urbanization, educational level).

3.1. AN OVERVIEW

According to the data available in the Eurostat Database, the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV), although with different amplitudes, is manifested in all EU Member States. Thus, at the base year level, overall, for the population aged 18-74, SWHEV recorded values ranging from a maximum of 54.6%, a value recorded in Hungary, to a minimum of 19.6%, a value recorded in Poland. The particularly large gap between these two extremes, of 35.0 percentage points, highlights the existence of significant disparities between the 27 EU Member States (Figure 1).

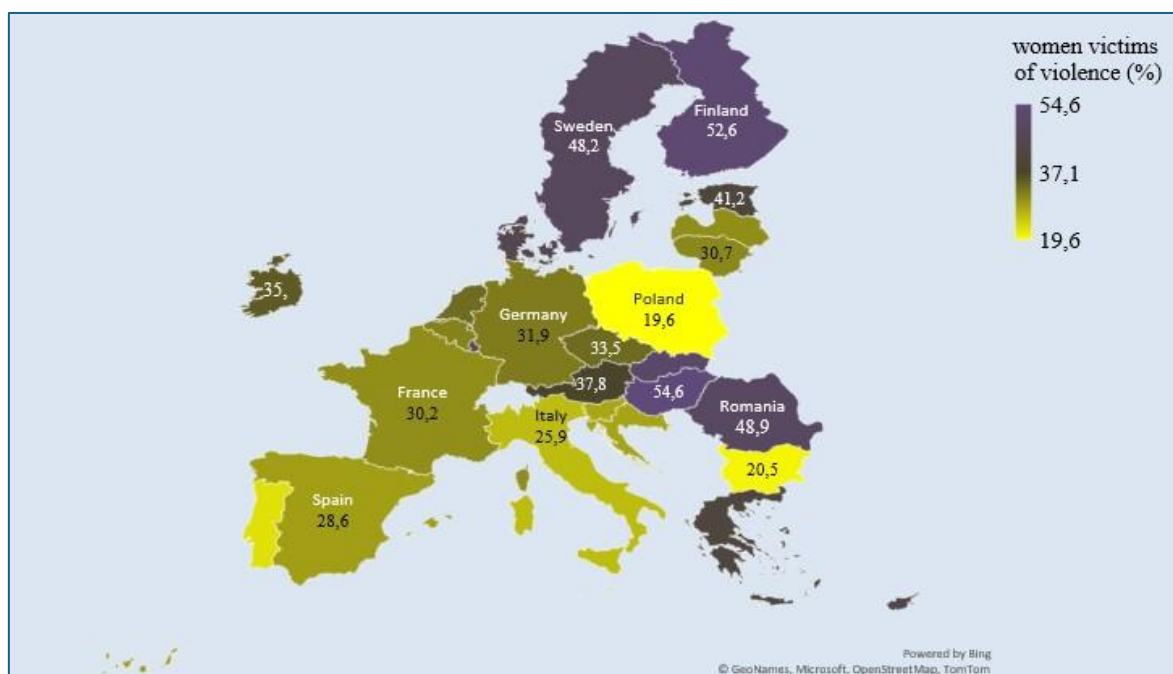


Figure 1. Shares of women aged 18 to 74 who have been victims of intimate partner violence.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEV data series

Taking as reference the estimated EU-average of SWHEV (31.8%), values higher than this were recorded in 15 countries (Figure 2), and lower values in only 12 countries. In value ranges, with SWHEV values between 42.9% and 54.6%, there were eight states, including Romania, with a share

of 48.9% (17.1 percentage points above the estimated EU-average), the highest value being recorded in Hungary and the lowest, 44.5%, in Cyprus. The median range also included eight states, the highest value being recorded in Greece (41.8%) and the lowest in Belgium (31.3%).

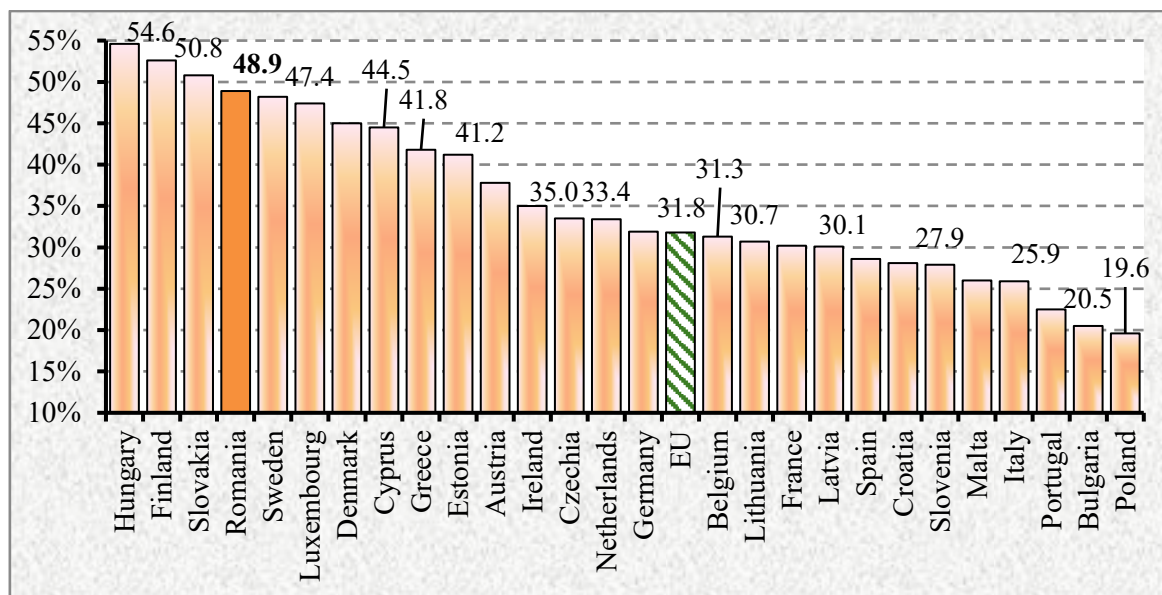


Figure 2. Ranking of EU member states according to SWHEV values.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEV data series

In the case of the other eleven EU countries, they formed the group with the lowest SWHEV values. Of these, the highest values were recorded in Lithuania (30.7%), France (30.2) and Latvia (30.1), respectively 1.1, 1.6 and 1.7 percentage points below the estimated EU-average, and the lowest in Bulgaria (20.5%) and Poland (19.6%), respectively 11.3 and 13.9 percentage points below the estimated EU-average.

3.2. SIMILARITIES AND DISPARITIES BY AGE GROUPS

Age is a factor that influences the amplitude of the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by age groups (SWHEVAG). In order to highlight the disparities and similarities in SWHEVAG values between age groups, between countries within age groups, as well as within them, four age groups were used. The data series corresponding to the age groups are: SWHEV18 for 18-29 age group, SWHEV30 for 30-44 age group, SWHEV45 for 45-64 age group and SWHEV65 for 65-74 age group.

A first conclusion was that the gap between the maximum and minimum values of the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (Figure 3) increases from the age group 18-29 years, by 36.9 percentage points between the SWHEV18 values recorded in Finland (58.1%) and Lithuania (21.2%), to the age group 45-54 years, by 42.8 percentage points between the SWHEV45 values recorded in Hungary (60.1%) and Bulgaria (17.3%), after which it decreases in the age group 65-74 years, to 38.7 percentage points between the SWHEV65 values recorded in Romania (52.6%) and Bulgaria (13.9%).

On the other hand, if we consider only estimated EU-averages by age group, as age increases the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner decreases. Thus, if for the 18-29 age group it was 35.8%, for 30-44 years old, it was 31.7%, and for the 67-74 age group it was only 26.1%.

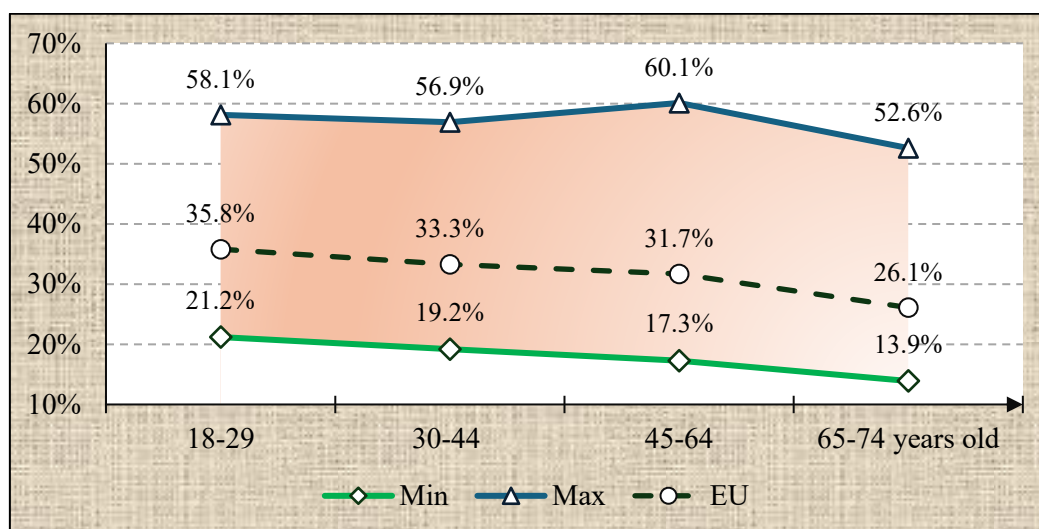


Figure 3. Evolution of the gap between the extreme values of SWHEVAG

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVAG data series

Another conclusion is that, within age groups, by value intervals, there is a reduction in the number of states in the intervals with high SWHEVAG values and an increase in the number of states in the median and low SWHEVAG ranges as the age of individuals increases.

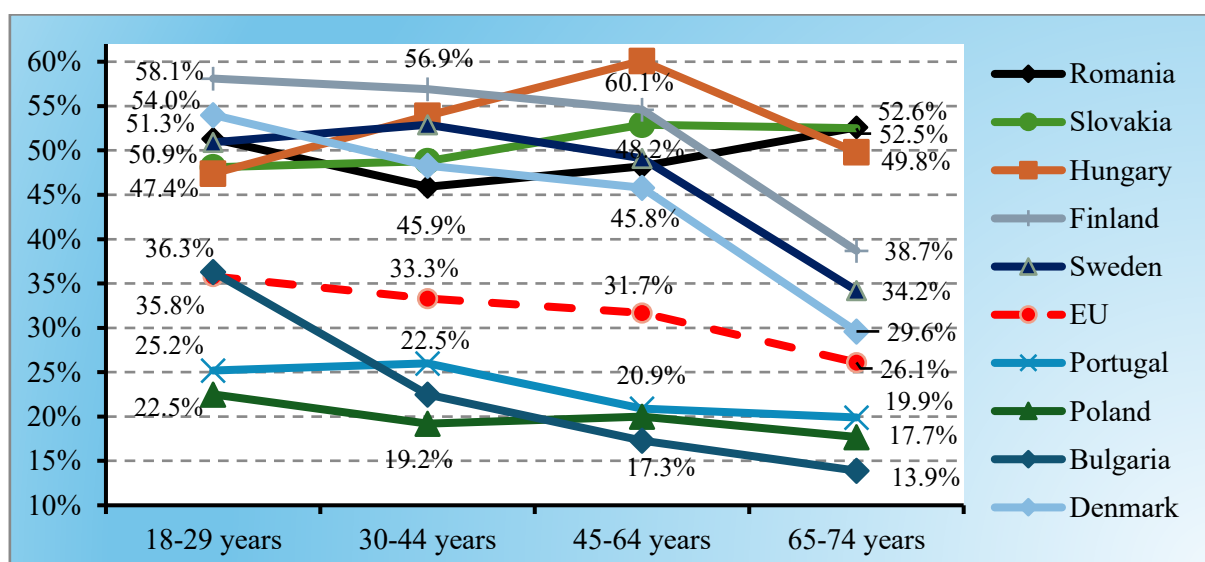


Figure 4. Evolution of SWHEVAG values in some EU countries

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVAG data series

Thus, in the 18-29 age group, in eight countries (Finland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden, Greece, Slovakia and Hungary) SWHEV18 values were recorded between 47.4%, a value recorded in Hungary, and 58.1%, a value recorded in Finland (Figure 4), while the median range included ten countries (Estonia, Cyprus, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria, Belgium and Ireland) with SWHEV18 values between 34.0%, a value recorded in Ireland, and 46.9%, a value recorded in Estonia. The third value group included nine countries (Italy, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Malta, Latvia, Portugal, Poland and Lithuania) with SWHEV18 values between 21.2%, a value recorded in Lithuania, and 29.2%, a value recorded in Italy.

In the 30-44 age group, the same eight countries were in the range with higher SWHEV30 values, but with a different ranking. While Finland also recorded the highest value (56.9%), increases in SWHEVAG were recorded in Hungary from 47.4% (SWHEV18) to 53.9% (SWHEV30), which ranks second after Finland, as well as in Sweden from 50.9% (SWHEV18) to 52.9% (SWHEV30) and Slovakia from 48.1% (SWHEV18) to 48.29% (SWHEV30). On the other hand, there were

reductions in SWHEVAG in Denmark of 54.0% (SWHEV18) to 48.3% (SWHEV30), Luxembourg of 53.4% (SWHEV18) to 50.0% (SWHEV30), Greece of 50.0% (SWHEV18) to 46.9% (SWHEV30), as well as in Romania of 51.3% (SWHEV18) to 45.9% (SWHEV30), which was also the lowest value in this value range.

At the same time, in the median range of SWHEV30 values, between 33.6%, a value recorded in France, and 44.6%, a value recorded in Cyprus, the number of states decreases from nine, with Croatia and Bulgaria moving into the range with low SWHEV30 values and the Czech Republic (37.7%) moving from the range with low SWHEV18 values to the median SWHEV30 value.

In the age group 45-64 years, the number of countries included in the range with high SWHEV45 values, ranging from 45.8%, a value recorded in Denmark, to 60.1%, a value recorded in Hungary, the number of countries included decreases to seven, with Luxembourg and Greece moving from the range with high SWHEV30 years values to the median SWHEV45 range, and Cyprus moving in the opposite direction.

Taking into account these, as well as the move of Germany and Lithuania from the low range of SWHEV30 to the median range of SWHEV45, and the move of Spain, Belgium and France from the median range of SWHEV30 to the low range of SWHEV45, the median range of SWHEV45 included nine countries, with values ranging from 31.8%, recorded in the Netherlands, to 45.5%, recorded in Luxembourg, and the low range of SWHEV45 included 11 countries, with values ranging from 17.3%, recorded in Bulgaria, to 31.4%, recorded in Belgium.

The age group 65-74 years, in terms of SWHEV65 values, differs significantly from the others in that the range of high SWHEV65 values included only three states: Romania (52.6%), Slovakia (52.5%) and Hungary (49.8%) with over 10 percentage points above the highest value recorded in the median range corresponding to this age group.

3.3. THE IMPACT OF THE DEGREE OF URBANIZATION

Given that data were not available for Italy for any of the three degrees of urbanisation, share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by degree of urbanisation (SWHEVDU), only twenty-six countries were included in the analysis. Corresponding to the degrees of urbanisation, three data series were used: SWFEVCT for cities, SWHEVTS for towns and suburbs and SWHEVRA for rural areas.

To facilitate a comparative view both between the degrees of urbanization and regarding the distribution of states according to the SWHEVDU shares, for each of the three degrees of urbanization, as in the case of the analysis of the impact of age on SWHEV, three intervals of equal amplitudes were determined between the maximum and minimum weights recorded in each case and the states included in them were identified..

Overall, SWHEVDU values ranged from a maximum of 63.8%, recorded in Hungary, in cities, to 16.1%, recorded in Poland, in rural areas. Comparatively, by degree of urbanization, SWHEVDU recorded decreasing values from cities to rural areas (Figure 5). At the same time, by value intervals, the number of states included in them differed both between intervals and between degrees of urbanization.

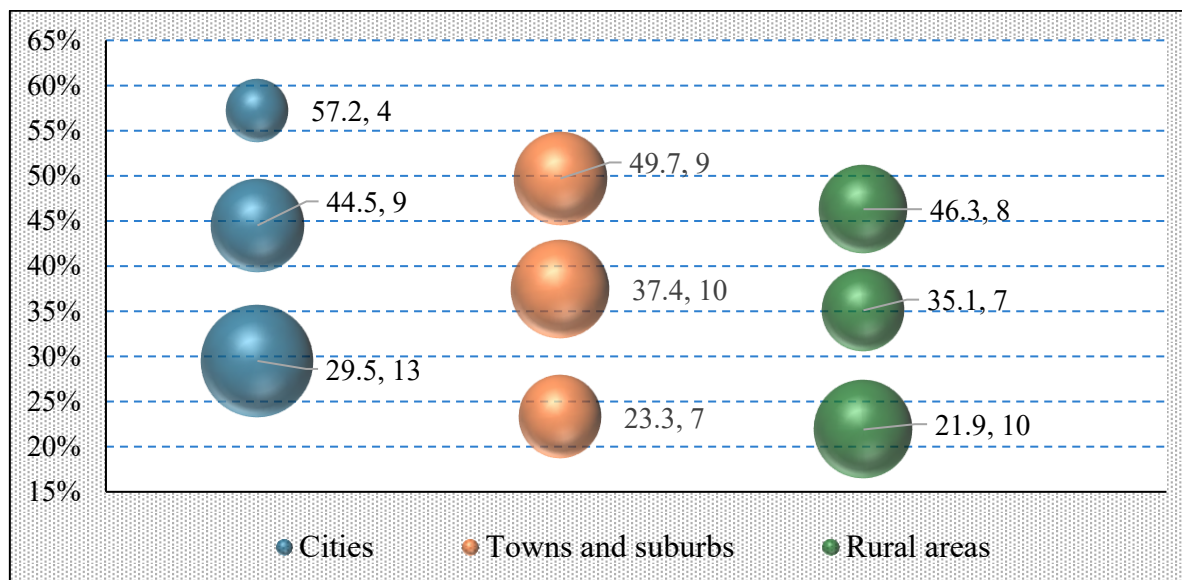


Figure 5. Distribution of states by SWHVDU value groups and urbanization degrees.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVCT, SWHEVTS and SWHEVRA data series

Taking into account the SWHVCT values (at city level), of the 26 countries included in the analysis, the most, 13 countries (Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Malta, Latvia, Spain, Lithuania, Slovenia, Croatia, France, Netherlands and Belgium), are included in the 22.5% - 36.2% range, the lowest values being recorded in Bulgaria (22.5%), Poland (22.9%) and Portugal (23.9%), and the highest in the Netherlands and Belgium (35.5%). At the opposite pole, the fewest, 4 countries (Hungary, Slovenia, Finland and Cyprus), were included in the 50.0% - 63.8% range, the lowest value being recorded in Cyprus (52.5%) and the highest in Hungary (63.8%).

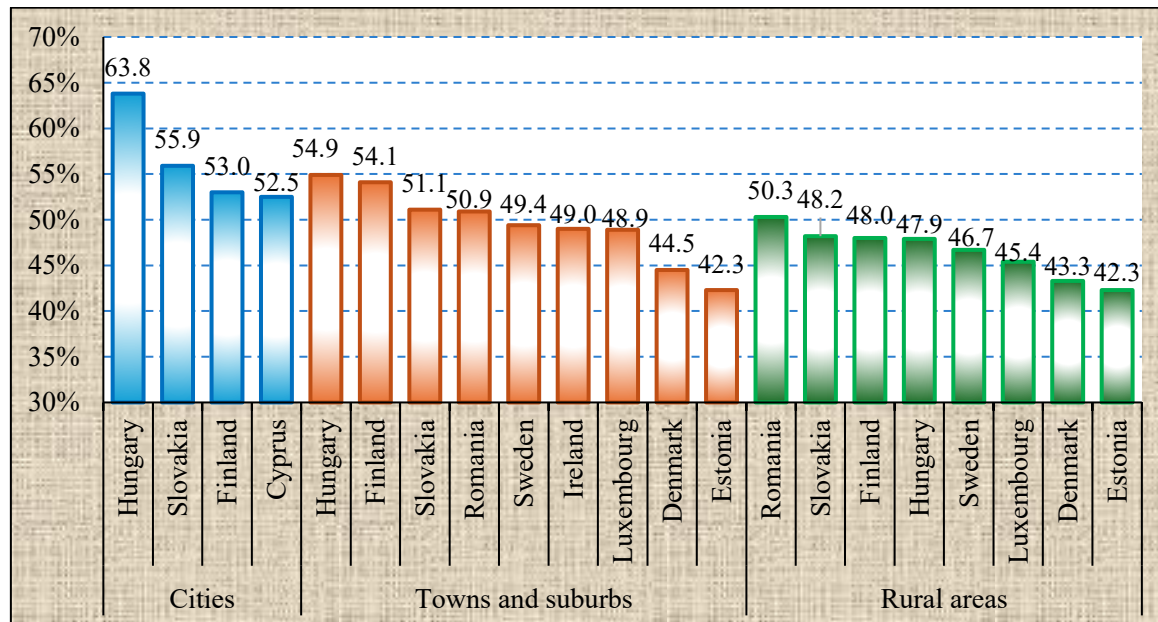


Figure 6. Hierarchy of states included in the groups with the highest PWHVDU values.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVCT, SWHEVTS and SWHEVRA data series

At the same time, if out of the 26 states, in cities the number of states in the group with the highest SWHEVCT values was only four, representing 15.38% of the total, in towns and suburbs, although with relatively lower values of SWHEVTS (Figure 6), nine states (Hungary, Finland, Slovakia, Romania, Sweden, Ireland, Luxembourg and Estonia) were included, representing 34.62% of the total. Of these nine states, three (Hungary, Slovakia and Finland) were also in the group with the highest SWHEVCT values, and the other six states, which in cities are in the median range, with

the exception of Denmark, recorded increases of 4.7 percentage points in Romania, 1.8 percentage points in Sweden, 11.0 percentage points in Ireland, 1.5 percentage points in Luxembourg and 1.7 percentage points in Estonia.

In towns and suburbs, in the median group, there were 10 states, with SWHEVTS values between 29.3% and 42.1%, the highest value being recorded in the Czech Republic (39.3%) and the lowest in France (30.2%). In the group with the lowest SWHEVTS values there were seven states, with values between 16.4% and 29.2%, the lowest values being recorded, as in cities, in Bulgaria (16.4%), Poland (19.6%) and Portugal (22.3%), with 6.1, 3.3 and 1.6 percentage points less than in cities, and the highest in Croatia (28.1%), with 3.8 percentage points less than in cities.

In rural areas, compared to the other degrees of urbanisation, with the exception of Bulgaria and Slovakia, which recorded increases of 4.4 and 1.8 percentage points respectively, as well as Malta, for which data are not available for this degree of urbanisation, lower SWHEVRA values were recorded in the others. The group with the highest SWHEVRA values included 8 countries (Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Hungary, Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark and Estonia) with the highest value of 50.3% being recorded in Romania (Figure 6), and the lowest in Estonia (42.3%). There is only one difference between the countries included in the group with the highest SWHEVTS (towns and suburbs) and SWHEVRA (rural areas) values: Ireland left this group. The other eight countries, although with changed positions, remain in the group with the highest SWHEVRA values.

The median group, in rural areas, corresponding in terms of SWHEVRA values (between 27.5% and 38.9%) included seven countries (Czech Republic, Austria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Greece and Slovenia), the lowest value being recorded in Slovenia (27.8%) and the highest in the Czech Republic (37.0%). On the other hand, the group with the lowest SWHEVRA values (between 16.1% and 27.4%) included ten countries, the highest value being recorded in France (27.0%), and the lowest, as in cities and towns and suburbs, in Poland (16.1%), Portugal (20.1%) and Bulgaria (20.8%).

3.4. THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION LEVEL

The education level is another factor that influences the share of women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV). Taking this into account, SWHEV values were analyzed at three levels of education: less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (SWHEVLE), upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (SWHEVSE) and tertiary education (SWHEVTE).

In terms of SWHEVLE, it ranges from a maximum of 62.5%, 28.1 percentage points above the estimated EU-average (32.3%), recorded in Hungary, to a minimum of 23.3%, recorded in Portugal (-11.0 percentage points below the estimated EU-average). Significantly higher values than the estimated EU-average were also recorded in three other countries (Figure 7): Romania (60.4%), Slovakia (56.1%) and Sweden (54.7%), which together with Hungary also form the group of countries with high SWHEVLE values.

At the opposite pole, values much lower than the estimated EU-average were recorded in Croatia (22.2%), France (23.2%), Bulgaria (24.2%) and Spain (24.2%), states belonging to groups with low SWHEVLE values, ranging between the minimum value of 21.3% recorded in Portugal and 34.2%, a value recorded in Austria. This group includes 13 states.

The median group of SWHEVLE values includes 9 states, with the highest values recorded in Estonia (47.5%) and Denmark (45.9%), and the lowest in Germany (36.9%) and the Czech Republic (37.2%).

Unlike SWHEVLE, in the case of SWHEVSE the gap between the extreme values, of 35.9 percentage points, is smaller by 5.3 percentage points, highlighting their concentration. The extreme values were recorded in Finland (55.5%) and, respectively, Poland (19.6%). There were also changes in both the structure and the values of the limits of the value groups. Thus, the group of states with high SWHEVSE values, between 43.5% value recorded in Denmark, and 55.5% value recorded in Finland, includes seven states (Figure 8), to the four states existing in the group of states with high

SWHEVLE values, Finland, Luxembourg and Denmark from the median group of its values are added.

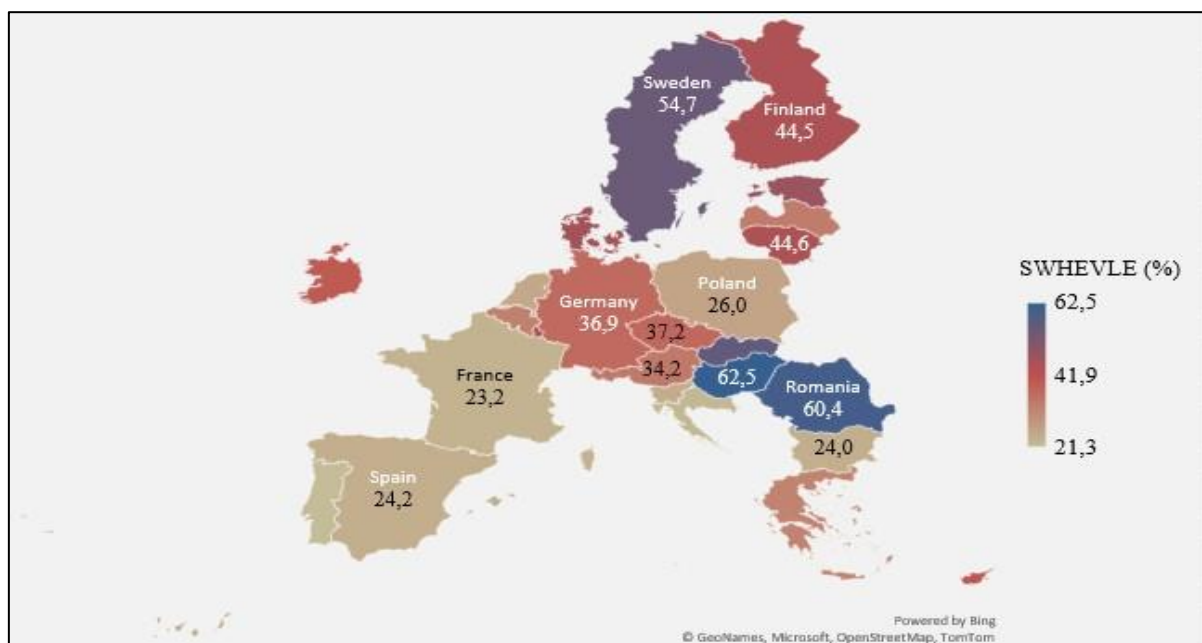


Figure 7. Geographic distribution of SWHEVLE values.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVLE data series

Regarding the other two SWHEVSE value groups (median group and group of states with low shares), there are also differences compared to the respective groups of SWHEVLE values. Thus, the median group of SWHEVSE values included ten states, with values ranging between 32.1%, a value recorded in Spain, and 43.2%, a value recorded in Estonia, and the group of states with low SWHEVSE values, included nine states with SWHEVSE values ranging between 19.6%, a value recorded in Poland, and 31.4%, a value recorded in Latvia.

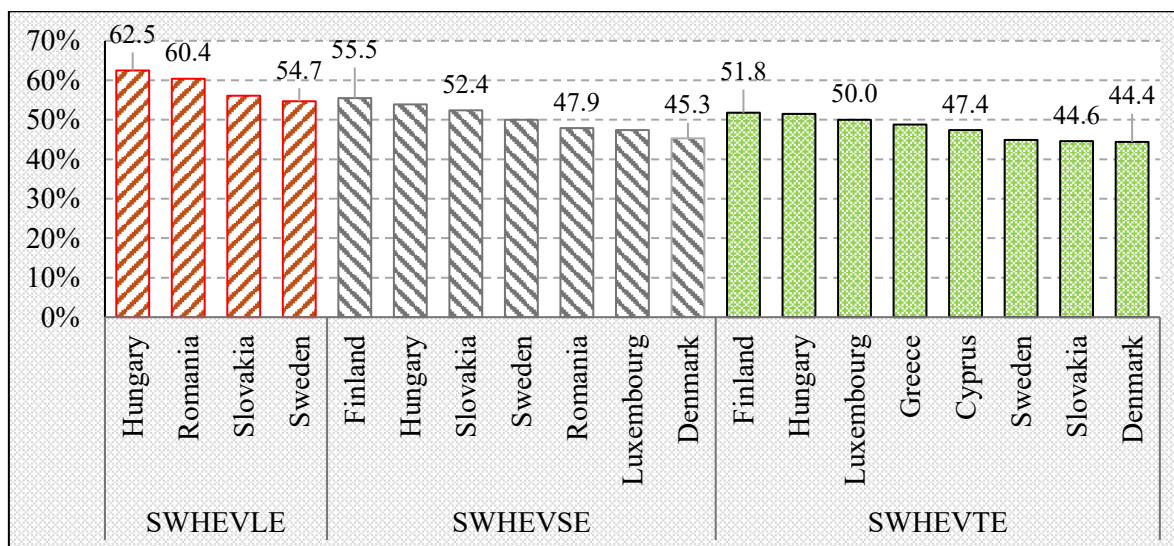


Figure 8. Structures of groups with the highest SWHEV values by education levels.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVLE, SWHEVSE and SWHEVTE data series

In terms of the share of women with tertiary education who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEVTE) compared to the values recorded in the case of those with less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (SWHEVLE) or with upper secondary and post-

secondary non-tertiary education (SWNEVSE), a series of differences were highlighted both within the three groups of values and in the geographical distribution of the values recorded (Figure 9).

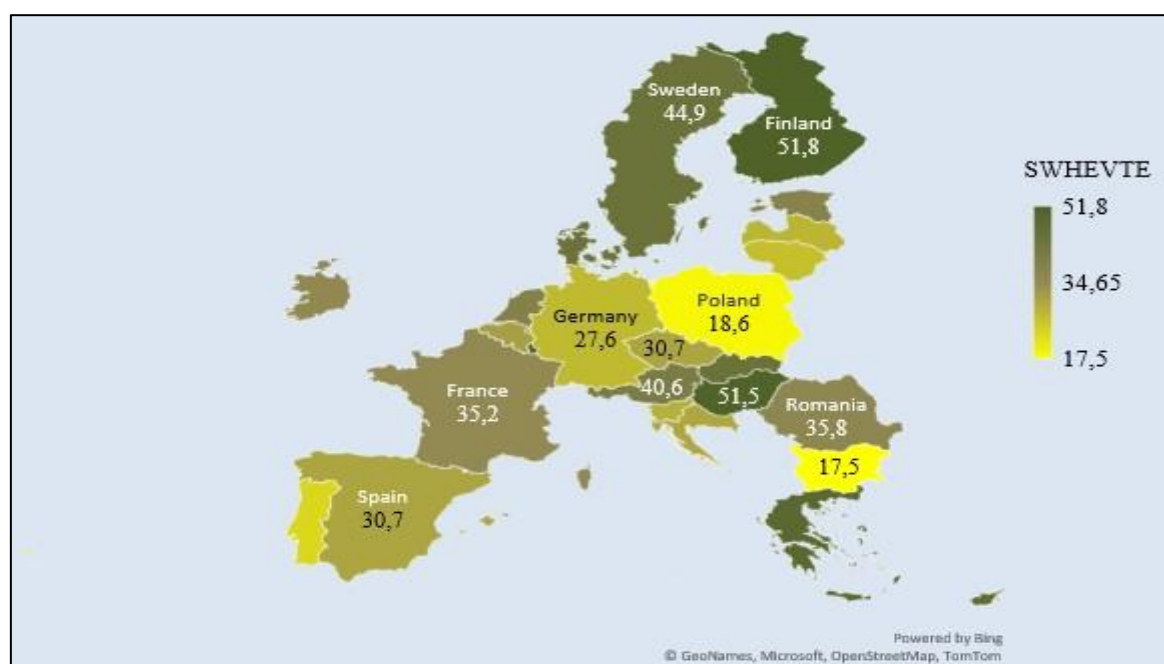


Figure 9. Geographical distribution of SWHEVTE values.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on the SWHEVTE data series

By value group, in the group of states with the highest SWHEVTE values (Figure 8), compared to SWHEVSE, the first two places with the highest values were Finland (51.8%) and Hungary (51.5%), 3.7 and 2.4 percentage points less than in the case of SWHEVSE. Also, values lower than SWHEVSE were recorded in Sweden, Slovakia and Denmark, as well as in the case of Romania, which recorded a reduction of 12.1 percentage points, from 47.9% to 35.8%, thus leaving this group and moving into the median group in terms of SWHEVTE. At the same time, increases of 2.6 percentage points were recorded in Luxembourg, as well as in Greece and Cyprus, which with increases of 10.0 and 4.8 percentage points respectively move from the median group to the group with high SWHEVTE values, which includes, in this case, eight states.

The median group in terms of SWHEVTE values included eleven countries, with the highest values recorded in Austria (40.6%) and the Netherlands (38.7%), and the lowest in Slovenia (29.1%), Croatia (30.2%), as well as Spain and the Czech Republic with 30.7% each.

As for the group of countries with low SWHEVTE values, this included seven countries: Latvia (28.2%), Germany (27.6%), Malta (27.0%), Lithuania (26.7%), Portugal (23.3%), Poland (18.6%) and Bulgaria (17.5%).

4. CONCLUSIONS

At the EU level, shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV) register a wide range of values, from states with low values of SWHEV, including Poland (19.6%), Bulgaria (20.5%) and Portugal (22.5%), to states with values close to the estimated EU-average (31.8%), including Belgium (31.3%) and Germany (31.9%), to states with very high values of SWHEV, including Hungary (54.8%), Finland (52.6%), Slovakia (50.8%) and Romania (48.9%).

From the age group point of view, both states were identified for which SWHEV values do not depend on the age group, being either high (Hungary, Romania, Slovakia), or low and very low (Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal), as well as states in which SWHEV values change from one age group to another, either decreasing with increasing age (Greece, Austria, Estonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Spain), or with low SWHEV values in the 18-29 age group but reaching average values over 29 years

(Latvia, Lithuania), or with alternating values from one age group to another (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia), as well as states with high SWHEV values in age groups up to 64 years and with significantly lower average values in the 65-74 age group (Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Sweden).

By urbanisation degree, overall, the highest SWHEV values were recorded in cities, at 63.8%, in Hungary, and the lowest in rural areas, at 16.1%, in Poland. At the national level, the highest values, over 50%, were recorded in Hungary, Slovakia, Finland and Cyprus, in cities, in Hungary, Finland, Slovakia and Romania in towers and suburbs, as well as in Romania, in rural areas, and the lowest in Portugal, Poland and Bulgaria.

At the European Union level, the estimated EU-average of SWHEV recorded the maximum value of 35.5% at the city level, decreasing to 32.0%, in towers and suburbs and to 29.6% in rural areas. Although this trend was characteristic in most EU member states, there were states in which the maximum values of SWHEV were recorded in towers and suburbs (Sweden, Luxembourg, Ireland, Lithuania, Czech Republic), states in which SWHEV values increased from cities to rural areas (Romania), as well as states in which the minimum values of SWHEV were recorded in towers and suburbs.

The level of education also influences differently the shares of women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner recorded in the countries included in the analysis. Thus, while in some countries the SWHEV values decrease as the level of education increases (Romania, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Croatia, Bulgaria, Poland, Malta), in others the trend is the opposite, the SWHEV values increase with the increase in the level of education (Austria, France, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Greece), and in others it remains approximately constant (Belgium, Denmark, Portugal). On the other hand, there are countries in which, regardless of the level of education, high values of SWHEV are recorded (Finland, Hungary, Slovakia, Sweden, Denmark), as well as countries in which only low values of SWHEV are recorded (Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, Croatia, Malta, Slovenia).

Taking these into account, the general conclusion is that, at the level of EU states, there is no common characteristic, neither regarding the influence of age, nor the degree of urbanisation, nor the level of education on the incidence of IPV. Consequently, reducing the incidence of violence against women by intimate partner requires the adoption of specific measures by states and groups of states.

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