

Europeans' attitudes to parental leave

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This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

This opinion poll has been carried out at the request of the Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs, managed and organised by the Directorate-General Press and Communication ('Public Opinion Analysis' Sector).

It was carried out between 18th March and 30th April 2003, in all the then fifteen Member States of the European Union, on behalf of the European Opinion Research Group (EORG: a consortium of market research and public opinion agencies, made out of INRA in Belgium – I.C.O. and GfK Ad Hoc Worldwide).

The questionnaire, technical specifications and names of the agencies associated with this research are all shown in appendix.

This report is in no way binding upon the European Commission.

This report was originally written in English.

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Notes for the reader:

1. The following are the abbreviations for Member States used in the tables in this report:

B	Belgium
DK	Denmark
D West	'Old' Länder/Western Germany
D Total	Germany
D East	'New' Länder/Eastern Germany
GR	Greece
E	Spain
F	France
IRL	Ireland
I	Italy
L	Luxembourg
NL	Netherlands
A	Austria
P	Portugal
FIN	Finland
S	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom

The distinction between the old and new German Länder has been maintained in the Eurobarometer since 1990. This is because marked differences of opinion between these two parts of the country are still evident.

2. EU15 refers to the fifteen countries that were members of the European Union prior to 1 May 2004.
3. It should also be noted that percentages may total more than 100% because of the rounding up of figures or where questions allow for more than one response.

Introduction

On 3 June 1996, the EU Council of Ministers adopted a Directive on the framework agreement on parental leave concluded by UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC (the social partners – employers and trades union representatives - at EU level). The main purpose of the agreement was to establish basic conditions for parental leave and to promote equal opportunities and treatment for women and men.

Because this Council of Ministers act is in the form of a Directive (i.e. binding on the Member States as regards the result to be achieved), it is at each Member State's discretion to decide the form and methods of achieving this result.

The Directive in question provides for minimum requirements in respect to parental leave and Member States may introduce more favourable provisions than those laid down in the Directive.

For this reason, there are important variations in the legislation from one Member State to another and the most marked conclusions to be drawn from the data tend to be based on country-by-country comparisons rather than on the analysis of the opinions of given socio-demographic groups.

This report looks at the attitudes of men across the European Union (EU15) on a series of issues relating to parental leave.

Profile of the sample

	Belgium	Denmark	Germany WEST	Germany TOTAL	Germany EAST	Greece	Spain	France	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Austria	Portugal	Finland	Sweden	UK	EU15
No children	50	40	54	55	58	52	52	51	56	56	45	46	50	36	40	49	43	50
One child	17	14	18	18	18	11	17	17	10	12	16	12	19	23	15	10	12	15
More than one child	32	44	26	26	23	36	30	31	34	32	36	37	30	39	43	39	44	33
Wife/partner expecting a baby	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	1	3	1	2	1
Other	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	2	1

Across the EU15 Member States, 5688 men aged 18 or more who were not retired were polled. The men were asked whether they had children and, if so, how many and whether their wife/partner was expecting a baby.

An average of 50% of the men surveyed had **no children**. However, figures ranged from a relatively low 36% in the Portuguese and 40% in the Danish and Finnish samples to substantially higher figures of 55% in Germany and 56% in Italy and Ireland. In fact, the highest percentage of respondents who said they had no children was observed in the New German Länder.

A further 15% of the men polled had **one child**. A high of 23% was recorded in Portugal and lows of 10% were observed in Ireland and Sweden.

One-third of the poll said they had **more than one child**. Above-average figures were recorded in both Denmark and the UK (44%) and in Finland (43%). At the other end of the scale were the Germans of whom only 26% had more than one child. Respondents in the Eastern Germany were the least likely of all Europeans polled to have more than one child.

As might be expected, 94% of those aged between 18 and 24 had **no children** as did six out of ten in the 25-39 age group. Just over a quarter of those aged between 40 and 54 (26%) and 27% of those aged 55 or more also had no children.

55% of those aged 40 and above said they had **more than one child** in contrast to just 2% of the 18 to 24 age group and 22% of those aged 25 to 39.

The more education that respondents had received the more likely they were to say that they had **no children**. More than 53% of those who had studied until age 20 or later said they had no children in contrast to just 31% of those who had left school at the first opportunity. Not surprisingly, 96% of those still studying said they had no children.

As respondents' levels of education rose, their likelihood of having **one child or more** declined. For example, there was a steady decline in the numbers of those having more than one child from 48% of those who had left school at age 15 or before compared with 32% of those who had studied until aged 20 and just 2% of those who were still studying.

Interestingly, managers (43%) and the self-employed (42%) were the occupational categories most likely to have **more than one child**. Homemakers¹ (29%) and the unemployed (28%) recorded considerably lower figures.

Other than students (97%), unemployed respondents (58%) were most likely to say they had **no children** in contrast to only 36% of managers and 40% of the self-employed.

The probability of respondents having **more than one child** increased as their income levels rose from 17% of those at the bottom of the scale to 42% of those with highest earnings. This may explain the relatively high percentage of managers in this situation.

Having **more than one child** was more common among rural dwellers than their more urbanised counterparts.

Objectives of the survey

Four issues are covered by the survey questionnaire.

The questionnaire starts off by evaluating the level of men's knowledge regarding their right to take parental leave.

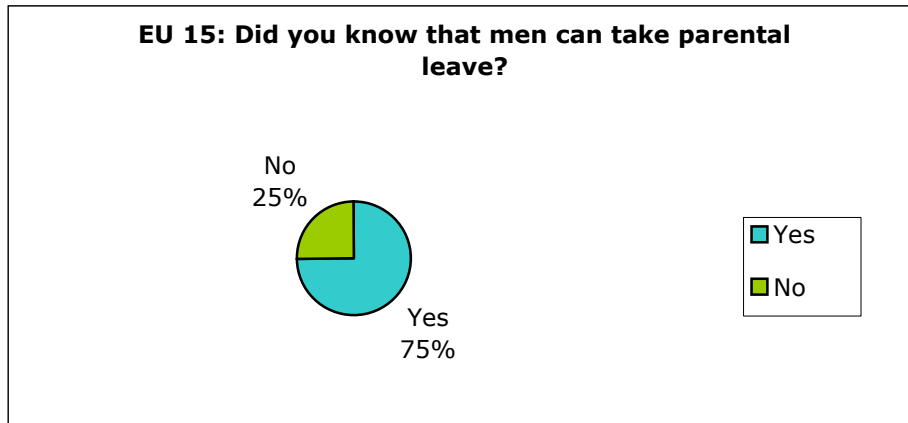
It goes on to look at the reasons why men have taken or are considering taking up parental leave.

Where men have not taken up parental leave or are not considering doing so, the reasons for this are explored.

Lastly, respondents were asked what, in their view, would be the main reasons that would encourage men to take parental leave and the main reasons that would discourage them.

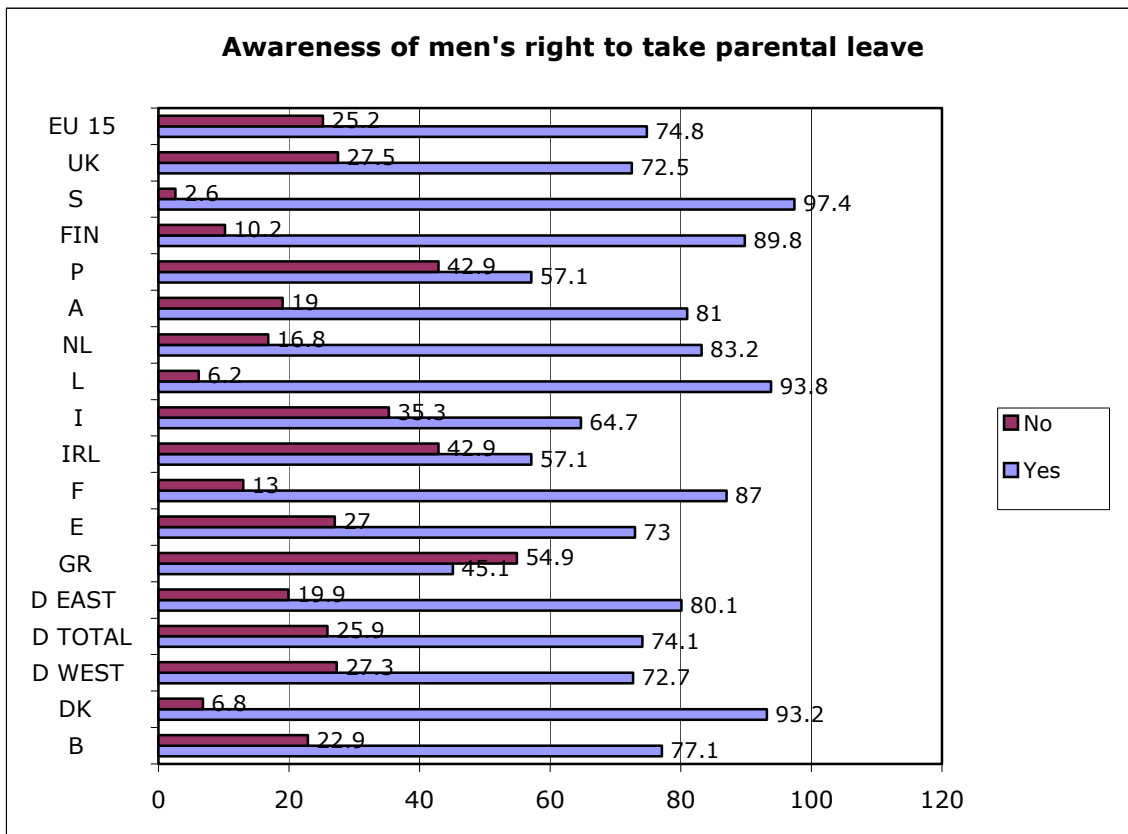
¹ Homemakers: persons engaged in family duties, that is, persons engaged in unpaid household duties in their own home or caring for relatives or children.

I. AWARENESS OF MEN OF THEIR RIGHT TO TAKE PARENTAL LEAVE



Of the 2819 men polled across the EU15 who had said they had one child or more or that their wife/partner was expecting a baby, 75% were aware of the right to take parental leave.

Country analysis



Levels of awareness were particularly high in Sweden (97%), Luxembourg (94%) and Denmark (93%).

At the other end of the scale, only 57% of Irish and Portuguese men claimed to be aware of their right to take parental leave.

However, it was in Greece that the lowest figure of all was recorded: 45%. In fact, in Greece a considerably larger proportion of men (55%) were not aware that they could take parental leave.

Socio-demographic analysis

A respondent's age does not appear to have an important bearing on awareness of this right.

However, a strong link is apparent between time spent in fulltime education and levels of awareness. 83% of people who had studied to age 20 or beyond were aware compared with only 65% of those who had left school aged 15. Managers (86%) showed high levels of awareness in contrast to homemakers (57%) and students (66%). The figures for manual workers and other white-collar workers were identical to the EU15 average (75%).

Interestingly, respondents living in rural areas (78%) tended to be more aware of the right to parental leave than those living in large towns (71%).

There was a strong correlation between income level and level of awareness: only 72% of those in the lowest income bracket were aware in contrast to 80% of those at the top of the income ladder.

II. THE INCIDENCE OF MEN TAKING UP PARENTAL LEAVE

Those men who were aware of parental leave (a total of 2108 respondents) were then asked if they had already availed of it or whether they were considering doing so. They could give multiple answers.



Across the EU15, a substantial 84% of respondents replied that they had **neither taken parental leave nor were thinking of doing so**.

Of the possible positive reply options given to respondents, four were volunteered in more or less equal numbers.

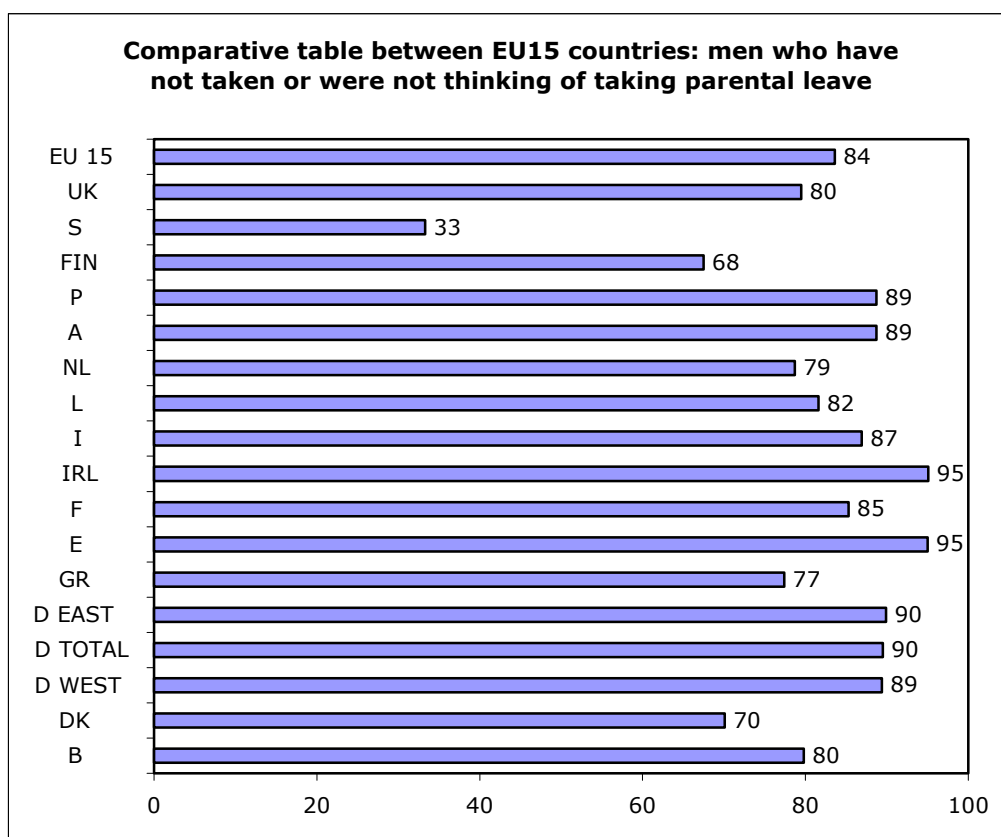
4% of respondents said that they had taken or were considering taking parental leave **for one of their children or their first and only child**.

4% said they had taken it or were considering it **for all or several of their children**.

4% said they had taken it or were considering taking it **to spend more time with their child/children**.

4% said yes because parental leave is not exclusively for women and that both parents should participate equally.

Country analysis

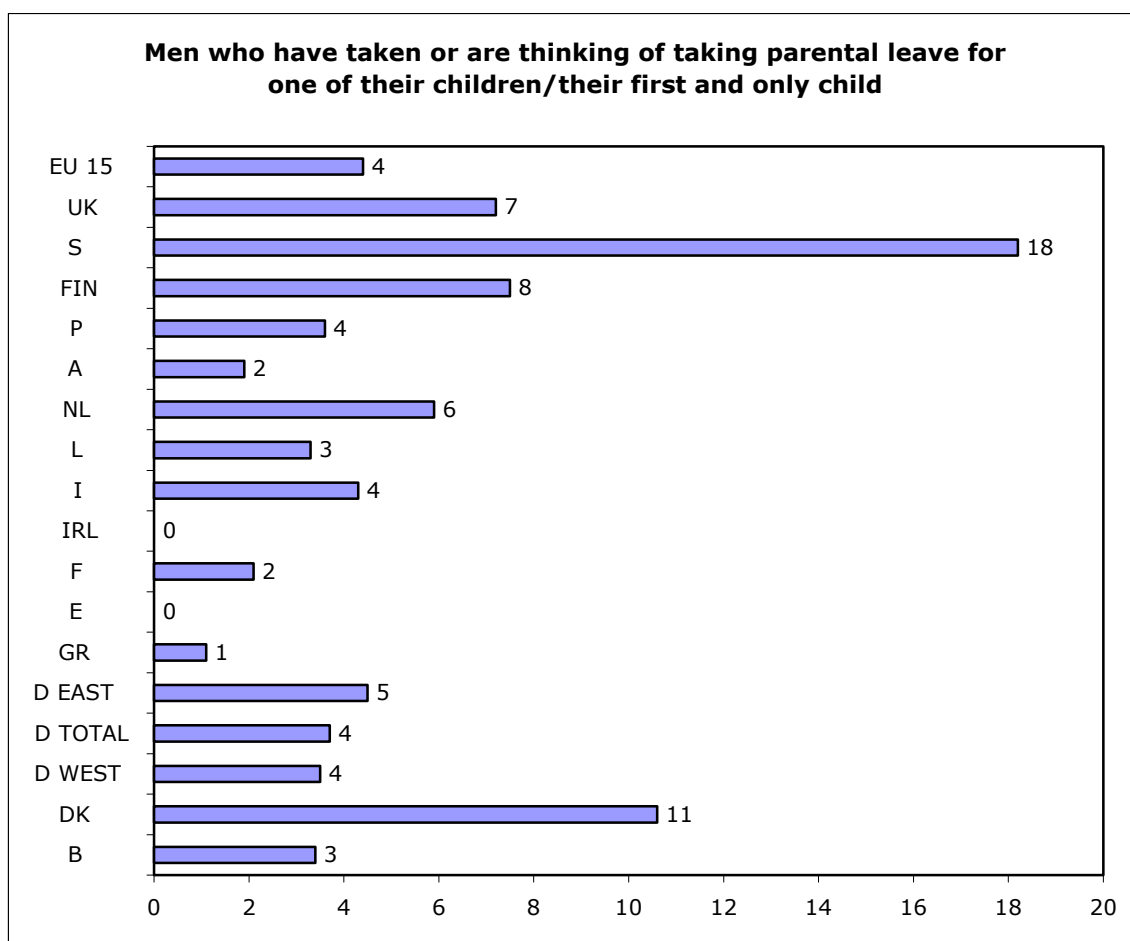


Within the EU15 average of 84% of respondents saying that they had **neither taken parental leave nor were thinking of doing so**, there were important variations between countries.

While 95% of the Spanish and Irish and 90% of the Germans surveyed claimed that they **had not taken or were not considering taking up parental leave**, the equivalent figure in Sweden was just 33%. In fact, with the exception of Sweden and Finland (68%), no country recorded a figure below 70%.

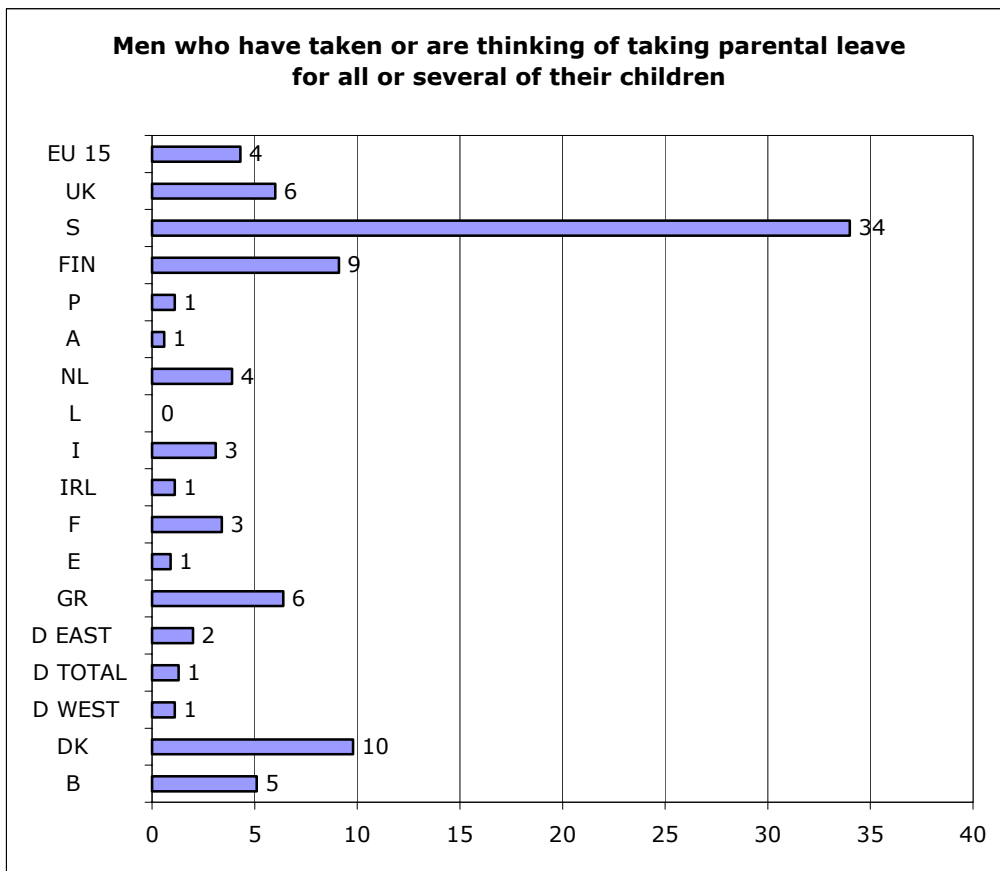
It will be seen that particularly strong patterns of positive responses are observed in Sweden and, to a lesser degree, in the other two Nordic countries, Denmark and Finland.

Parental leave for one of their children/their first and only child



18% of Swedes, 11% of Danes and 8% of Finns said they had **taken leave or were considering doing so for one of their children or their first and only child**. This contrasts with the EU15 average of 4% and figures of 0% in Spain and Ireland, 1% in Greece and 2% in Austria and France.

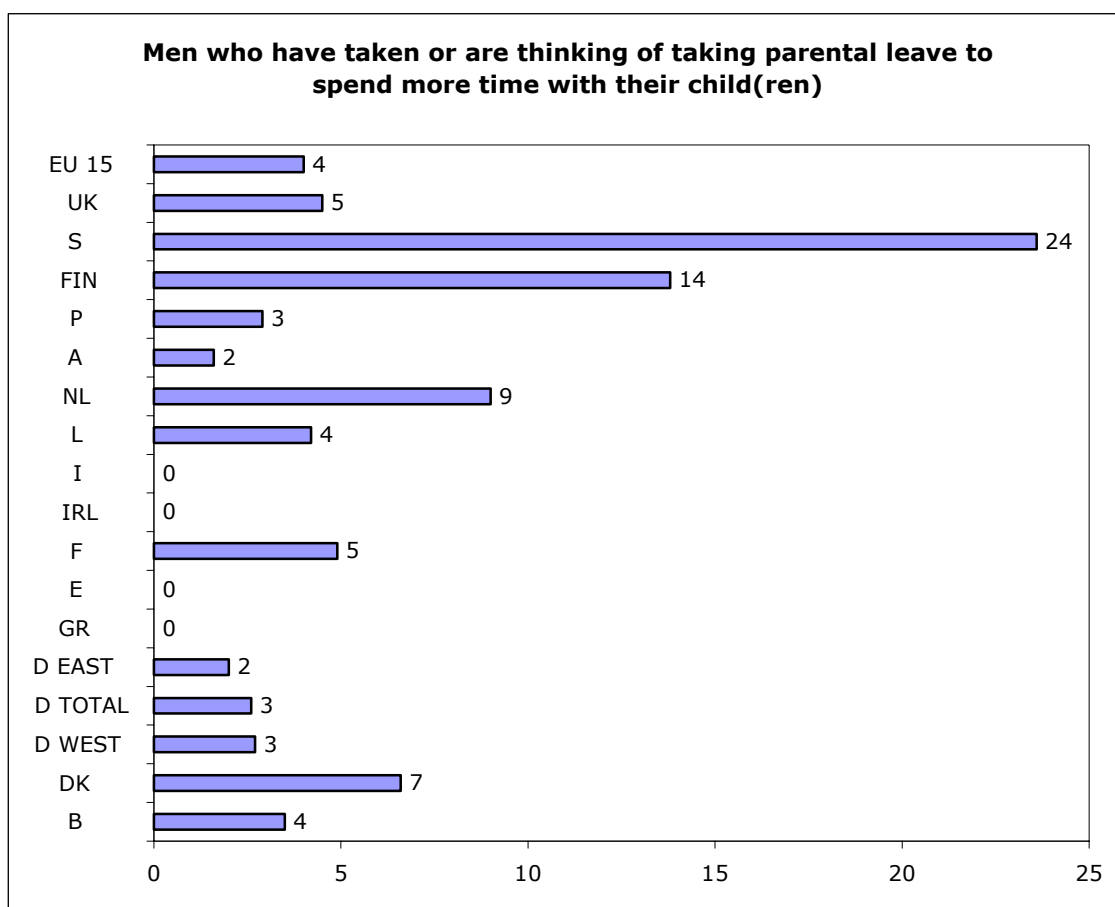
Parental leave for all or several of their children



34% of Swedes answered that they had **taken or were considering taking parental leave for all or several of their children** in contrast to figures of 0% in Luxembourg and 1% in Germany, Spain, Ireland, Austria and Portugal.

Only in the other two Nordic countries, Denmark (10%) and Finland (9%), were figures also substantially above the EU15 average (4%) recorded.

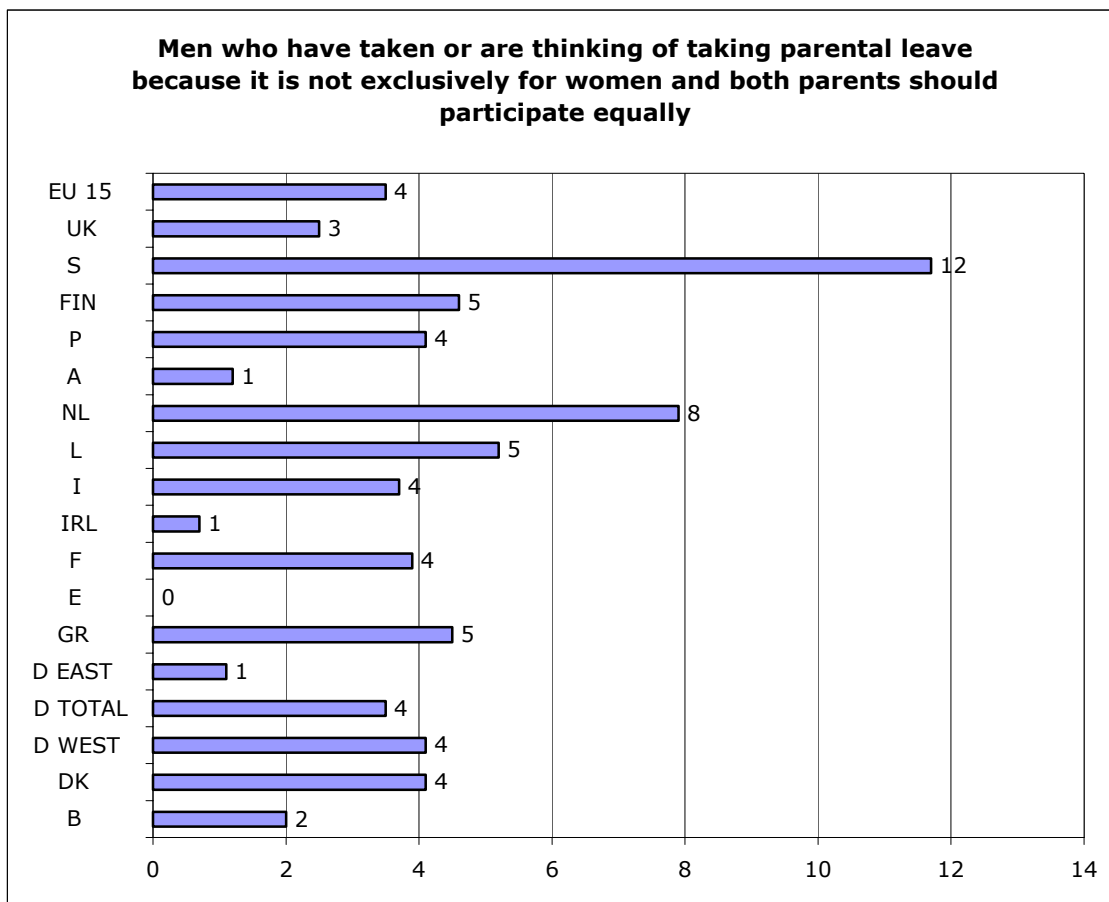
Parental leave to spend more time with their children



Spending more time with a child/children was a response given by 24% of Swedish respondents and 14% of Finns compared with the EU15 average of 4%.

At the other end of the spectrum, figures of 0% were observed in Greece, Spain, Ireland and Italy.

Parental leave is not exclusively for women and both parents should participate equally



In contrast to the EU15 average of 4%, 12% of Swedish and 8% of Dutch men said they believed that **parental leave is not exclusively for women and that both parents should participate equally**.

On the other hand, 2% or less of Belgians, Spaniards, Irish and Austrians shared this opinion.

Socio-demographic analysis

There was a strong correlation between a respondent's age and level of educational attainment and their response to this question.

While only 59% of those aged between 18 and 24 said they **had not taken or were not considering taking up parental leave**, this figure reaches 88% in the 40-54 age group and 92% in the 55+ age group.

91% of respondents with the lowest levels of education compared with 79% of those who had studied until age 20 or beyond and 71% of those still studying gave this same response.

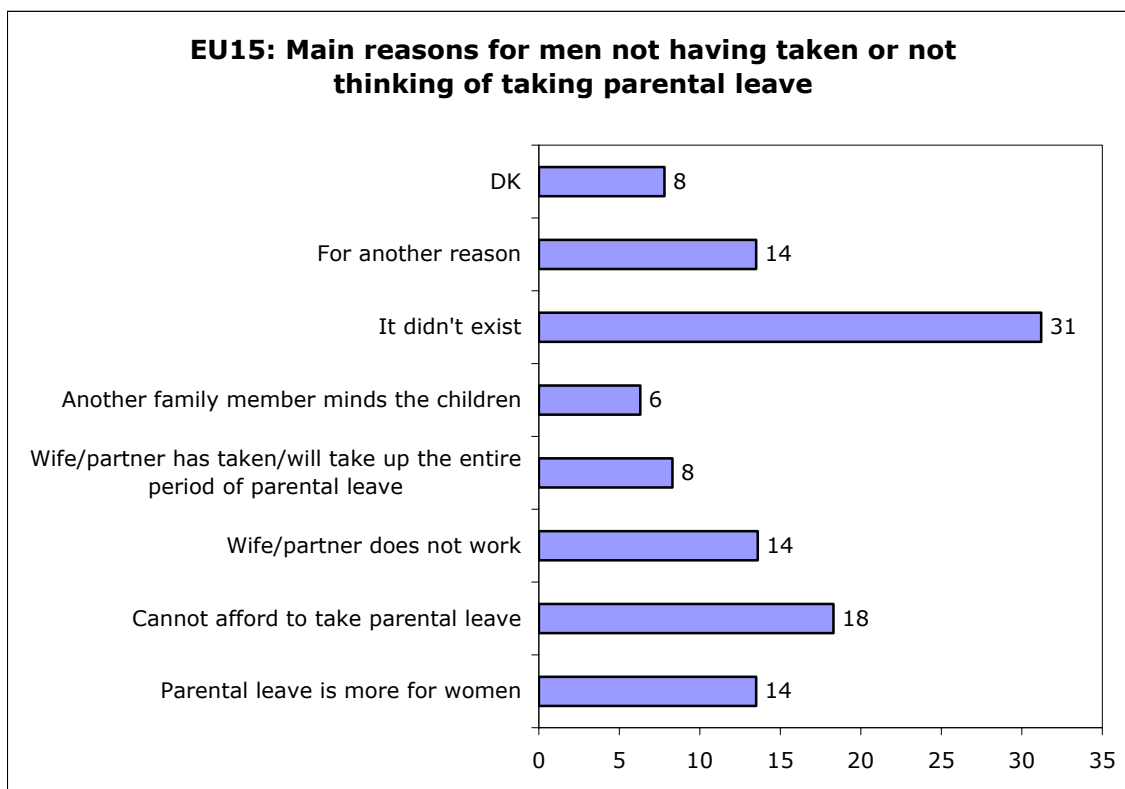
Perhaps not surprisingly, 89% of the self-employed had **not taken or were not considering taking parental leave**.

A relatively high proportion of homemakers (13%) compared with the EU15 average of 4% said they had **taken parental leave for one of their children/their first and only child.**

Compared with EU15 averages of 4% in each case, a large percentage of students (14%) responded that they considered that **parental leave is not exclusively for women and that both parents should participate equally** or **wished to spend more time with their child/children.**

III. REASONS FOR NOT TAKING UP OR THINKING ABOUT TAKING UP PARENTAL LEAVE

Those men who have at least one child or whose wife/partner is expecting one and who are aware of their right to parental leave were then asked for the main reasons why they have not taken or are not considering taking up parental leave. This question was addressed to 1763 respondents across the EU15. They could give multiple answers.



Country analysis

Across the EU15, 31% of respondents said that the reason why was that **it did not exist** when their children were young. 51% of Belgian, 49% of Swedish, 48% of Dutch and 47% of French men gave this response.

On the other hand, only 16% of Italians and 19% of Germans living in the Western Länder gave this response, although the latter figure was in sharp contrast with the figure of 38% for German respondents living in the New Länder.

18% of respondents across the EU15 gave the reason that they **could not afford to take up parental leave**. Particularly high figures were observed in Germany (31%) [35% in Western Germany], in Austria (29%) and in Ireland (26%).

Compared with the EU15 average of 14%, 25% of Italian, 23% of Spanish, 21% of Greek and 20% of Irish men give as a reason that their **wife/partner does not work**.

Another 14% of EU15 respondents stated that they felt that **parental leave is more for women**. This average figure conceals a wide variety of results ranging from 1% in Sweden and 3% in Italy through 15% in Portugal and 17% in Ireland to 25% in Germany [but only 14% in the New Länder] and a substantial 37% in Austria.

Across the Union, 8% of those polled said that **their wife/partner will take up the entire period of parental leave**. In Finland, however, the figure reaches 27% and in Denmark, with the next highest, it is 16%. On the other hand, figures of 4% and under were observed in the UK, Belgium, Portugal, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In contrast to the EU15 average of 6% claiming that **another family member minds their children** were high figures from Italy (19%) and Greece (12%).

Socio-demographic analysis

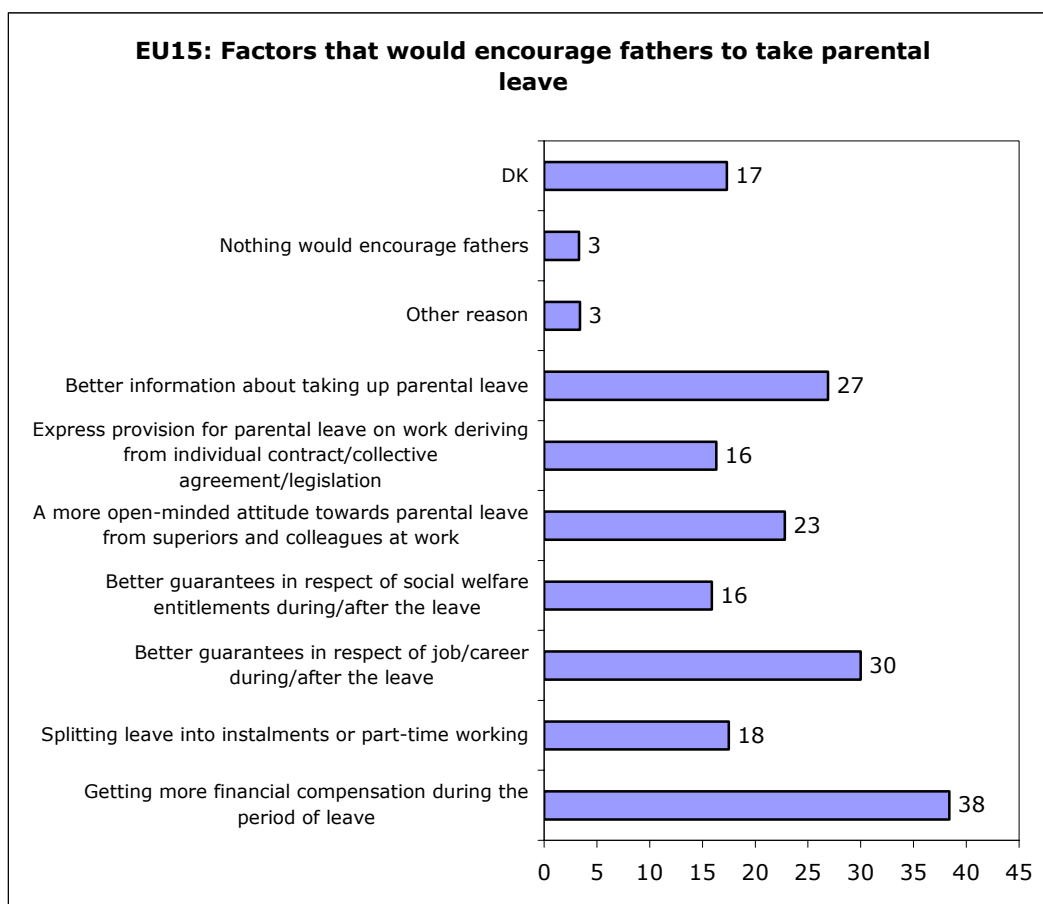
When respondents' age data are analysed, it can be seen why so many respondents gave the **'it didn't exist'** response. 51% of those aged 55 and above, 37% of those aged between 40 and 54 but only 12% of those in the 25 to 39 age group and 0% of those in the 18 to 24 age group gave this response. In view of the relatively recent introduction of rights to parental leave, the higher figures found among older age groups represent no surprise.

No further significant correlations within the socio-demographic data were noted.

Although only 8% of the EU15 sample gave a 'don't know' response to this question, homemakers recorded a figure of 36%.

IV. FACTORS THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE FATHERS TO TAKE PARENTAL LEAVE

This question was directed at the entire EU15 male sample of 5688 individuals. Respondents could give multiple answers to the question.



Nine possible options were provided, as well as the possibility of giving a 'don't know' response.

Across the EU15 as a whole, 38% of the sample said that **getting more financial compensation during the period of leave** would be the main factor. This average hides wide variations between countries with figures as low as 23% and 24% being recorded in Luxembourg and Italy respectively, and 60% and 62% in the UK and Sweden.

30% of the poll felt that **better guarantees in respect of job/career during/after the leave** would encourage fathers to take parental leave. Just 19% of Greeks, 20% of Portuguese and 21% of Irish and Dutch subscribed to this view in contrast to 32% of Germans, 34% of Swedes and 37% of Danes.

The third most selected option across the EU15 (27%) was that concerning **better information about taking parental leave**. 17% of Dutch and 18% of Danes held this view compared with 37% of British and 41% of Greeks. It is worth noting that whereas only 14% of those surveyed in the New Länder (the lowest figure anywhere in the EU15) felt this way, 22% of those in the Western Länder did.

That a **more open-minded attitude towards parental leave from superiors and colleagues at work** would encourage fathers to take parental leave was an opinion held by 23% of the EU15 sample. However, there were wide divergences in the figures recorded in the various Member States. For example, figures of 10%, 14% and 15% were recorded in Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal respectively. These contrast markedly with the 43% figure observed in Sweden and 33% in the UK.

18% of men across the Union felt that **splitting leave into instalments or part-time working** would serve to encourage men to take parental leave. Levels of support for this view ranged a mere 9% in Ireland and Greece to 32% in Sweden and 37% in Denmark.

16% of the poll felt that **express provision for parental leave from work deriving from and individual contract/collective agreement/legislation** would help. This opinion received most support in Germany (24%) and the Netherlands (29%). Only 9% of Italians, however, shared this opinion.

A further 16% believed that **better guarantees in respect of social welfare entitlements during/after the leave** would encourage men to take advantage of their right to parental leave. While only 7% of Luxembourgers and 10% of Austrians held this view, it received support from 21% of French and 27% of Portuguese.

17% of the EU15 sample was unable to give a response to this question. Particularly high 'don't know' scores were recorded in Ireland and Italy (both 21%) and Germany (25%).

Socio-demographic analysis

Across the EU15, two socio-demographic variables, in particular, show interesting results.

In the case of all of the propositions, respondents who had spent the longest time in fulltime education gave them greater support than did their less educated counterparts.

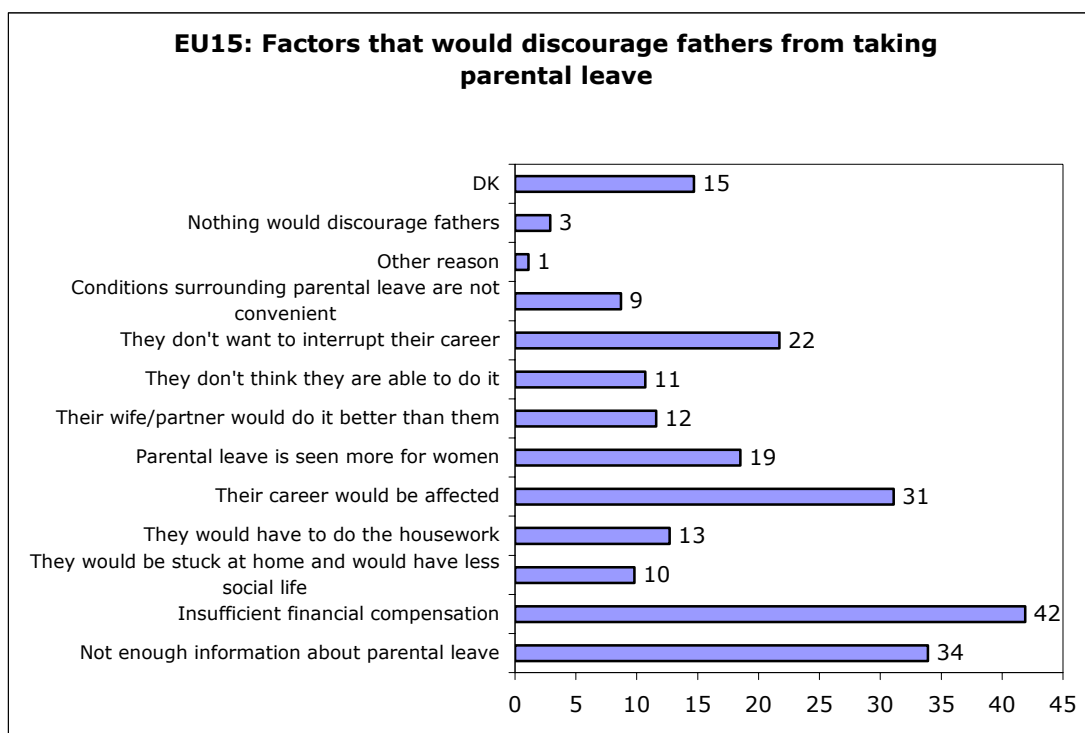
For example, 36% of those who had been educated until age 15 felt that **getting more financial compensation during the period of leave** would encourage fathers to take parental leave in contrast to 42% of those who had studied to age 20 or beyond.

27% of those who had left school at 15 supported the proposition that fathers would be encouraged by **better guarantees in respect of job/career during/after the leave**. This compares with the higher figure of 33% for those who had studied until age 20 or beyond.

People who saw themselves as being on the political left gave greater support to all of the propositions than their more right-wing counterparts.

V. MAIN REASONS DISCOURAGING FATHERS FROM TAKING PARENTAL LEAVE

The last question in this part of the Eurobarometer 59.1 survey examines the main reasons stopping fathers from taking parental leave.



Across the Union, 42% of the 5688 men polled gave **insufficient financial compensation** as a main reason. However, the EU15 average is misleading, as opinion on this matter was very divided between the Member States.

Figures as high as 57%, 59% and 69% were recorded in Finland, Denmark and Sweden respectively. Figures exceeding 40% were observed in seven further Member States.

At the other end of the scale was Luxembourg, where only 21% of the poll gave support to this view, and Italy (28%) Portugal (29%) and Spain also recorded figures substantially below the 42% EU15 average.

34% of EU15 respondents felt that there was **not enough information about parental leave**. While only 12% of Danish and 14% of Swedish men held this view, figures of 42% were recorded in Greece and Italy and 46% in Portugal and the UK.

31% of respondents felt that **their career would be affected**. Again, there were wide variations between countries. Only 16% of Portuguese and 19% of Greeks and Spaniards gave this as a main reason in sharp contrast to 46% of Swedes and 51% of Danes.

Just over one in five (22%) EU15 men gave as a reason that **they did not want to interrupt their career**. Again, there were wide variations in responses ranging from 7% in Portugal, 9% in Spain and 10% in Greece to 40% in Sweden and 46% in Denmark.

19% of men in the EU15 responded that **parental leave is seen more for women**. The figures were substantially higher in Germany (24%) and Finland (26%). Interestingly, there is an eight-percentage point difference between those living in the New German Länder (17%) and those living in the Old Western Länder (26%).

Relatively low readings for this reason were observed for Portugal and Denmark (9% each), Greece (10%) and the Netherlands and Sweden (both 11%).

Fear of having to **do the housework** was a concern for 13% of EU15 men polled. This was felt most in Germany (20%), followed by Austria and Luxembourg (both 16%). Having to do the housework was of least concern to Greek (6%), Danish, Portuguese and Swedish men (7% each).

12% of men polled claimed that **their wife/partner would do it better than them**. This feeling was particularly prevalent in Germany (21%) where there was a ten-percentage point difference between Western Länder (23%) and Eastern Länder (13%).

At the other end of the spectrum were figures for Greece (5%) and Italy and the Netherlands (both 6%).

Of the EU15 men in this poll, 11% **did not think they are able to do it**². This concern was highest in Germany (17%), followed by Ireland (13%) and Belgium (12%). On the other hand, only 2% of Greek men gave this response, as did just 8% of their Spanish, Luxemburgish, Portuguese and Finnish counterparts.

Concerns that **they would be stuck at home and would have less social life** were cited by 10% of the poll across the Union. Figures were highest for Germany (16%) and France (13%).

Although only 9% of men across the EU15 felt that **conditions surrounding parental leave are not convenient**, this was a concern raised by almost one in five Swedish (19%) and 13% each of Danish, Finnish and Luxemburgish men.

15% of those polled were unable to provide a response to this question. A particularly high 'don't know' score was observed in Germany (20%), with those living in the New Länder recording a figure of 25%.

Socio-demographic analysis

Looking at the socio-demographic data regarding this question, few patterns emerge with the exception of those relating to respondents' education levels and occupation. Occasionally, other characteristics come into play, such as age, political orientation or place of residence.

Concern about **insufficient financial compensation** rose as respondents' levels of educational attainment rose. While 38% of those who left school aged 15 or before cite this reason, the figure recorded for those who studied until age 20 or beyond was 46%.

47% of managers and 44% of manual workers cited this reason in comparison with only 27% of homemakers.

Education, again, appears to be a factor among respondents citing **not enough information about parental leave** as a reason. 30% of those who had left school at the earliest opportunity gave this response in contrast to 37% of those who had studied the longest.

Students (38%) and other white-collar workers (36%) gave most support to this reason whereas only a quarter of homemakers (25%) held this view.

² 'Did not think they are able to do it': Respondents did not indicate what they meant by this statement.

There was a gap of six-percentage points between those on the political left (36%) and those on the right (30%) citing this reason and a five-percentage point gap between those living in rural areas (32%) and those living in large towns (37%).

Fear that **their career would be affected** by taking parental leave rose substantially with educational attainment from 20% among those who had left school aged 15 or before rising to 37% among those who were educated the longest.

The numbers of those citing this concern declined steadily with age from 35% for those aged 18 to 24 to 26% among the 55+ age group.

40% of students and 38% of managers showed concern about the effects on their career of taking parental leave in contrast to just 26% of manual workers.

Those who had studied until age 20 or beyond (27%) showed greatest reticence to **interrupt their career** in contrast to the 22% EU15 average and the 12% figure for those who had left school aged 15 or before.

Again, high figures were recorded amongst managers (29%) and students (27%) in comparison with the unemployed (16%) and homemakers (18%).

The view that **parental leave is seen more for women** is held by 20% of those who had spent least time in education and by 17% of those who had spent the most.

Perhaps surprisingly, students (21%) are the occupational group most likely to hold this opinion. At the other end of the spectrum, only 13% of homemakers did.

Concern that they would have to **do the housework** declined with age from 14% of those in the 18-24 age group to 10% among those aged 55 or more.

The feeling that **their wife/partner would do it better than them** declined as levels of educational attainment rose from 14% of those who had left school aged 15 or before to 9% of those who had studied until age 20 or after.

Respondents in rural areas (14%) were more likely than those in more urban areas (11%) to cite this reason.

Of the 15% across the EU15 not knowing how to respond to this question, there were particularly high 'don't know' figures recorded amongst homemakers (38%), and those in the lowest income bracket and those aged 55 and above (both 21%).

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE

ASK ALL

Let's move to our last topic: family.

D.10. Gender.

Male 1

Female 2

EB59.0 - D.10. - DEMO TREND

D.11. How old are you?

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EB59.0 - D.11. - DEMO TREND

D.15. a) What is your current occupation?

IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY – CODES 1 TO 4 IN D. 15. a.

b) Did you do any paid work in the past? What was your last occupation?

	D.15.a. CURRENT OCCUPATION	D.15.b. LAST OCCUPATION
NON-ACTIVE	1	
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working		
Student		
Unemployed or temporarily not working		
Retired or unable to work through illness	4	
SELF EMPLOYED	5	1
Farmer		
Fisherman	6	2
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, etc.)	7	3
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self-employed person	8	4
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	9	5
EMPLOYED	10	6
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)		
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	7
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	8
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	9
Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, etc.)	14	10
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, etc.)	15	11
Supervisor	16	12
Skilled manual worker	17	13
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	14
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK		15

EB59.0 - D.15. - DEMO TREND

**ONLY ASK TO MEN (CODE 1 IN D.10.), WOMEN GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS,
AND IF 18 YEARS OLD OR MORE IN D.11.,
AND IF NO CODE 4 (RETIRED) IN D.15.a.,
OTHERS GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS**

Both, men and women, have the right to parental leave for up to 3 months - that is time off when your children are young. We are not talking here about maternity or paternity leave. (USE APPROPRIATE WORD IN EACH LANGUAGE)

Q.79. Which of the following applies to you?
 (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- I have no children 1,
- I have one child 2,
- I have more than one child 3,
- My wife/partner is expecting a baby 4,
- Other (SPONTANEOUS) 5,

EB59.1 - NEW

**IF "ONE CHILD" OR "MORE" OR "WHOSE WIFE/PARTNER IS EXPECTING A BABY"
 CODES 2 TO 5 IN Q.79.**

Q.80. Did you know that men can take parental leave?

- Yes 1
- No 2

EB59.1 - NEW

IF "YES", CODE 1 IN Q.80., OTHERS GO TO Q.83.a.

Q.81. Did you take, or are you thinking of taking up parental leave?
 (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- No 1,
- Yes, for the child we are expecting 2,
- Yes, for one of my children/my first and only child 3,
- Yes, for all my children or several of my children 4,
- Yes, because parental leave is not exclusively
 for women, both parents should participate equally 5,
- Yes, to compensate for the lack of childcare facilities
 (e.g. nurseries, crèches, etc.) 6,
- Yes, to spend more time with my child(ren) 7,
- Yes, to reduce stress at work 8,
- Yes, for another reason (SPONTANEOUS) 9,
- DK 10,

EB59.1 - NEW

IF "NO", CODE 1 IN Q.81., OTHERS GO TO Q.83.a.

Q.82. Which are the main reasons for you not taking or not thinking to take up parental leave?
(SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- Parental leave is more for women..... 1,
- I cannot afford to 2,
- My wife/my partner does not work..... 3,
- My wife/my partner has taken/will take up the entire period of parental leave 4,
- Another family member minds my children 5,
- It didn't exist (SPONTANEOUS) 6,
- For another reason (SPONTANEOUS)..... 7,
- DK..... 8,

EB59.1 - NEW

TO ALL MEN OVER 18 AND IF "NOT RETIRED", CODE 4 IN D.15.a.

Q.83. a) What do you think are the main reasons that would encourage fathers to take parental leave?
(SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- Getting more financial compensation during the period of leave 1,
- Splitting leave into instalments or part-time working..... 2,
- Better guarantees in respect of job/career during/after the leave 3,
- Better guarantees in respect of social welfare entitlements during/after the leave 4,
- A more open-minded attitude towards parental leave
from superiors and colleagues at work..... 5,
- Express provision for parental leave from work deriving from
individual contract, collective agreement or legislation 6,
- Better information about taking parental leave 7,
- Other reason (SPONTANEOUS)..... 8,
- Nothing would encourage fathers (SPONTANEOUS) 9,
- DK 10,

EB59.1 - NEW

Q.83. b) And what do you think are the main reasons that would discourage fathers from taking parental leave? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- Not enough information about parental leave 1,
- Insufficient financial compensation 2,
- They would be stuck at home and would have less social life 3,
- They would have to do the housework 4,
- Their career would be affected 5,
- Parental leave is seen more for women 6,
- Their wife/partner would do it better than them 7,
- They don't think they are able to do it..... 8,
- They don't want to interrupt their career 9,
- Conditions surrounding parental leave do not suit them 10,
- Other reason (SPONTANEOUS)..... 11,
- Nothing would discourage fathers (SPONTANEOUS)..... 12,
- DK 13,

EB59.1 - NEW

ANNEX II: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 59.1

Between 18th March 2003 and 30th April 2003, the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of Market and Public Opinion Research agencies, made out of INRA in Belgium – I.C.O. and GfK Worldwide, carried out wave 59.1 of the standard Eurobarometer, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

The Standard EUROBAROMETER 59.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, aged 15 years and over, resident in each of the Member States. The basic sample design applied in all Member States is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each EU country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

For doing so, the points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the Member States according to the EUROSTAT NUTS 2 (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective EU-nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses were selected as every Nth address by standard random route procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random. All interviews were face-to-face in people's home and in the appropriate national language.

<u>COUNTRIES</u>	<u>INSTITUTES</u>	<u>N° INTERVIEWS</u>	<u>FIELDWORK DATES</u>	<u>POPULATION 15+ (x 000)</u>
Belgium	INRA BELGIUM	1,112	18/03 – 28/04	8,458
Denmark	GfK DENMARK	1,000	18/03 – 29/04	4,355
Germany (East)	INRA DEUTSCHLAND	1,021	22/03 – 9/04	13,164
Germany (West)	INRA DEUTSCHLAND	1,050	21/03 – 9/04	56,319
Greece	MARKET ANALYSIS	1,003	21/03 – 20/04	8,899
Spain	INRA ESPAÑA	1,000	20/03 – 26/04	34,239
France	CSA-TMO	1,075	18/03 – 24/04	47,936
Ireland	LANSLOWNE Market Research	1,024	22/03 – 18/04	3,004
Italy	INRA Demoskopoea	1,027	20/03 – 15/04	49,531
Luxembourg	ILRes	600	21/03 – 27/04	357
The Netherlands	INTOMART	1,008	22/03 – 22/04	13,010
Austria	SPECTRA	1,021	20/03 – 7/04	6,770
Portugal	METRIS	1,001	29/03 – 22/04	8,620
Finland	MDC MARKETING RESEARCH	1,046	23/03 – 20/04	4,245
Sweden	GfK SVERIGE	1,000	18/03 – 30/04	7,252
Great Britain	MARTIN HAMBLIN LTD	1,011	18/03 – 29/04	46,370
Northern Ireland	ULSTER MARKETING SURVEYS	308	23/03 – 17/04	1,314
	TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	16,307		

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics. For all EU member-countries a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. As such in all countries, minimum gender, age, region NUTS 2 were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), INRA (EUROPE) applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

The results of the Eurobarometer studies are reported in the form of tables, datafiles and analyses. Per question a table of results is given with the full question text in English, French and German. The results are expressed as a percentage of the total. The results of the Eurobarometer surveys are analysed and made available through the Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls of the European Commission, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels. The results are published on the Internet server of the European Commission: http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion. All Eurobarometer datafiles are stored at the Zentral Archiv (Universität Köln, Bachemer Strasse, 40, D-50869 Köln-Lindenthal), available through the CESSDA Database <http://www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html>. They are at the disposal of all institutes members of the European Consortium for Political Research (Essex), of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (Michigan) and of all those interested in social science research.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	± 1.9%	± 2.5%	± 2.7%	± 3.0%	± 3.1%

**STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 59.1
CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AND RESEARCH EXECUTIVES**

The European Opinion Research Group EEIG
P.a. INRA (EUROPE) - European Coordination Office SA/NV
Christine KOTARAKOS
159, avenue de la Couronne
B -1050 BRUSSELS – BELGIUM
Tel. ++/32 2 642 47 11 – Fax: ++/32 2 648 34 08
e-mail: christine.kotarakos@eorg.be

BELGIQUE	INRA BELGIUM 159, avenue de la Couronne B-1050 BRUXELLES	Ms Verena MELAN verena.melan@inra.com	tel. ++/32 2 642 47 11 fax ++/32 2 648 34 08
DANMARK	GfK DANMARK Sylows Allé, 1 DK-2000 FREDERIKSBERG	Mr Erik CHRISTIANSEN erik.christiansen@gfk.dk	tel. ++/45 38 32 20 00 fax ++/45 38 32 20 01
DEUTSCHLAND	INRA DEUTSCHLAND Papenkamp, 2-6 D-23879 MÖLLN	Mr Christian HOLST christian.holst@inra.de	tel. ++/49 4542 801 0 fax ++/49 4542 801 201
ELLAS	Market Analysis 190 Hymettus Street GR-11635 ATHENA	Mr. Spyros Camileris markanalysis@ marketanalysis.gr	tel. ++/30 1 75 64 688 fax. ++/30/1/70 19 355
ESPAÑA	INRA ESPAÑA Avda de Burgos Nº 12, 8ª planta 28036 Madrid SPAIN	Ms Victoria MIQUEL victoria.miquel@ consulting.ecoipsos.es	tel. ++/34 91 7672199 fax ++/34 91 3834254
FRANCE	CSA-TMO 30, rue Saint Augustin F-75002 PARIS	Mr. Bruno JEANBART bruno.jeanbart@csa-tmo.fr	tel. ++/33 1 44 94 59 10 fax ++/33 1 44 94 40 01
IRELAND	LANSDOWNE Market Research 49, St. Stephen's Green IRL-DUBLIN 2	Mr Roger JUPP roger@Lmr.ie	tel. ++/353 1 661 34 83 fax ++/353 1 661 34 79
ITALIA	INRA Demoskopea Via Salaria, 290 I-00199 ROMA	Mrs Maria-Adelaide SANTILLI Santilli@demoskopea.it	tel. ++/39 06 85 37 521 fax ++/39 06 85 35 01 75
LUXEMBOURG	ILReS 46, rue du Cimetière L-1338 LUXEMBOURG	Mr Charles MARGUE charles.margue@ilres.com	tel. ++/352 49 92 91 fax ++/352 49 92 95 555
NEDERLAND	Intomart Noordse Bosje 13-15 NL - 1201 DA HILVERSUM	Mr. Dré Koks Dre.Koks@intomart.nl	tel. ++/31/35/625 84 11 fax ++/31/35/625 84 33
AUSTRIA	SPECTRA Brucknerstrasse, 3-5/4 A-4020 LINZ	Ms Jitka NEUMANN neji@spectra.at	tel. ++/43/732/6901 fax ++/43/732/6901-4
PORTUGAL	MetrisGfK Rua Marquês da Fronteira, 8 – 1º Andar 1070 - 296 LISBOA	Ms Mafalda BRASIL mafaldabrasil@metris.gfk.pt	tel. ++/351 210 000 200 fax ++/351 210 000 290
FINLAND	MDC MARKETING RESEARCH Ltd Itätuulenkuja 10 A FIN-02100 ESPOO	Mrs Anu SIMULA anu.simula@gallup.fi	tel. ++/358 9 613 500 fax ++/358 9 613 50 423
SWEDEN	GfK SVERIGE S:t Lars väg 46 S-221 00 LUND	Mr Rikard EKDAHL rikard.ekdahl@gfksverige.se	tel. ++/46 46 18 16 00 fax ++/46 46 18 16 11
GREAT BRITAIN	MARTIN HAMBLIN LTD Mulberry House, Smith Square 36 UK-London Swip 3HL	Mr. Ross Williams ross.williams@ martinhamblin.co.uk	tel. ++/44 207 222 81 81 fax ++/44 207 396 90 46