



Gender role expectations in Malta

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Aim of study

- The aim of the research study was to investigate:
 - the prevalence of traditional gender roles and attitudes among adults living in Malta
 - to find out whether sexual stereotypes prevail within the different strata of the population, taking gender, age, education, employment, civil status and district into account.
- A gender stereotype is a generalized view or preconception about **attributes** or **characteristics**, or the **roles** that are or ought to be possessed by, or performed by, women and men.
- A gender stereotype is **harmful** when it **limits** women's and men's capacity to develop their **personal abilities**, pursue their **professional careers** and/or make **choices** about their lives.
- Whether overtly hostile (such as “women are irrational”) or seemingly benign (“women are nurturing”), **harmful stereotypes** perpetuate inequalities. For example, the traditional view of women as care givers means that child care responsibilities often fall exclusively on women.
- OHCHR <https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/gender-stereotyping>

Methodology

- Data was collected by Sagalytics using a survey designed by NCPE
- The participants had to provide a single response to each close-ended question.
- Participants were contacted by telephone in January of 2023.
- Participants included 645 adults aged 18 years and over living in Malta.
- Data was analysed using SPSS
- Quota sampling was used where the sample was stratified by gender, age and residence district.
- This sample guaranteed a maximum margin of error of 3.86%, assuming a 95% confidence level.



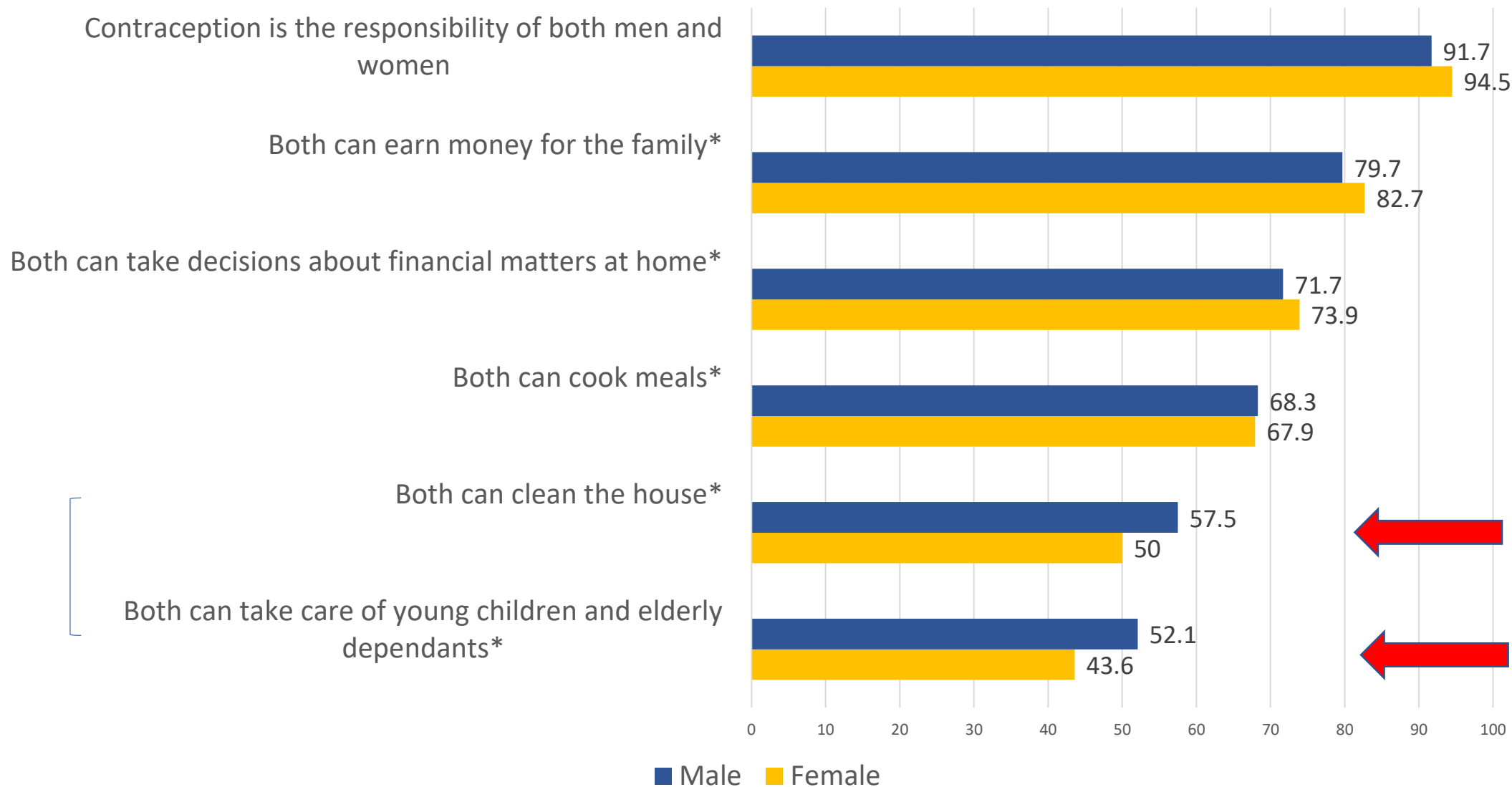
Participants

		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Female	330	51.2%
	Male	315	48.8%
Age-Group	18-25	74	11.5%
	26-35	121	18.8%
	36-45	115	17.8%
	46-55	86	13.3%
	56-65	103	16.0%
	66+	146	22.6%
District	Northern Harbour	185	28.7%
	Southern Harbour	114	17.7%
	South Eastern	101	15.7%
	Western	91	14.1%
	Northern	120	18.6%
	Gozo and Comino	34	5.3%
Nationality	Maltese	644	99.8%
	Non-EU	1	0.2%
Level of Education	Primary	64	9.9%
	Secondary	282	43.7%
	Post-secondary	94	14.6%
	Tertiary	120	18.6%
	Post-graduate	85	13.2%
Occupation	Manager	34	5.3%
	Professionals	120	18.6%
	Technicians and ass. professionals	20	3.1%
	Clerical support workers	34	5.3%
	Service and sales workers	31	4.8%
	Elementary occupations	116	18.0%
	Student	13	2.0%
	Pensioner	210	32.6%
	Unemployed	48	7.4%
Other	19	2.9%	
Civil Status	Single (without children)	106	16.4%
	Married/cohabiting with children	409	63.4%
	Married/cohabiting without children	41	6.4%
	Single with children	16	2.5%
	Separated/divorced/widowed	55	8.5%
	Other	18	2.8%

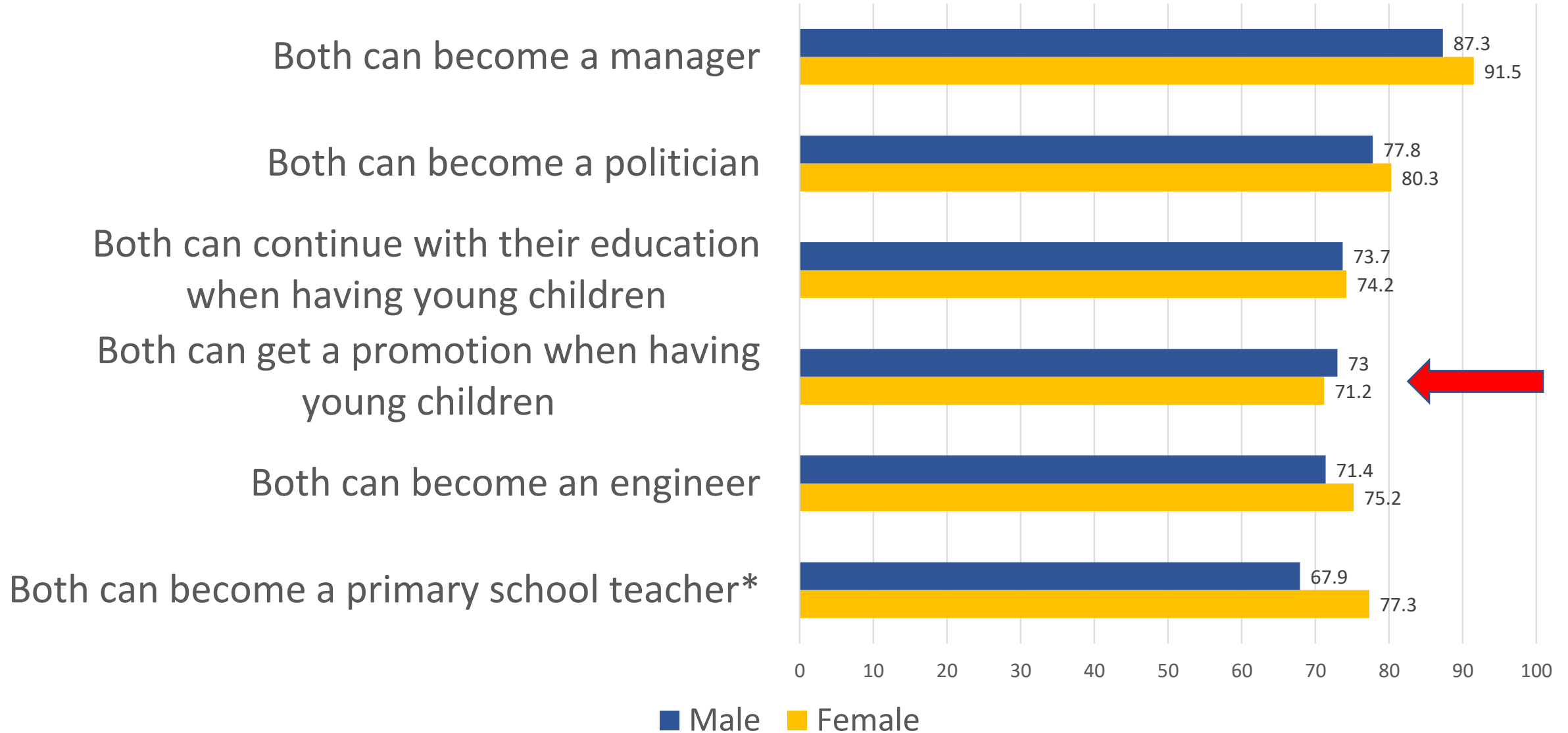


Analysis by gender

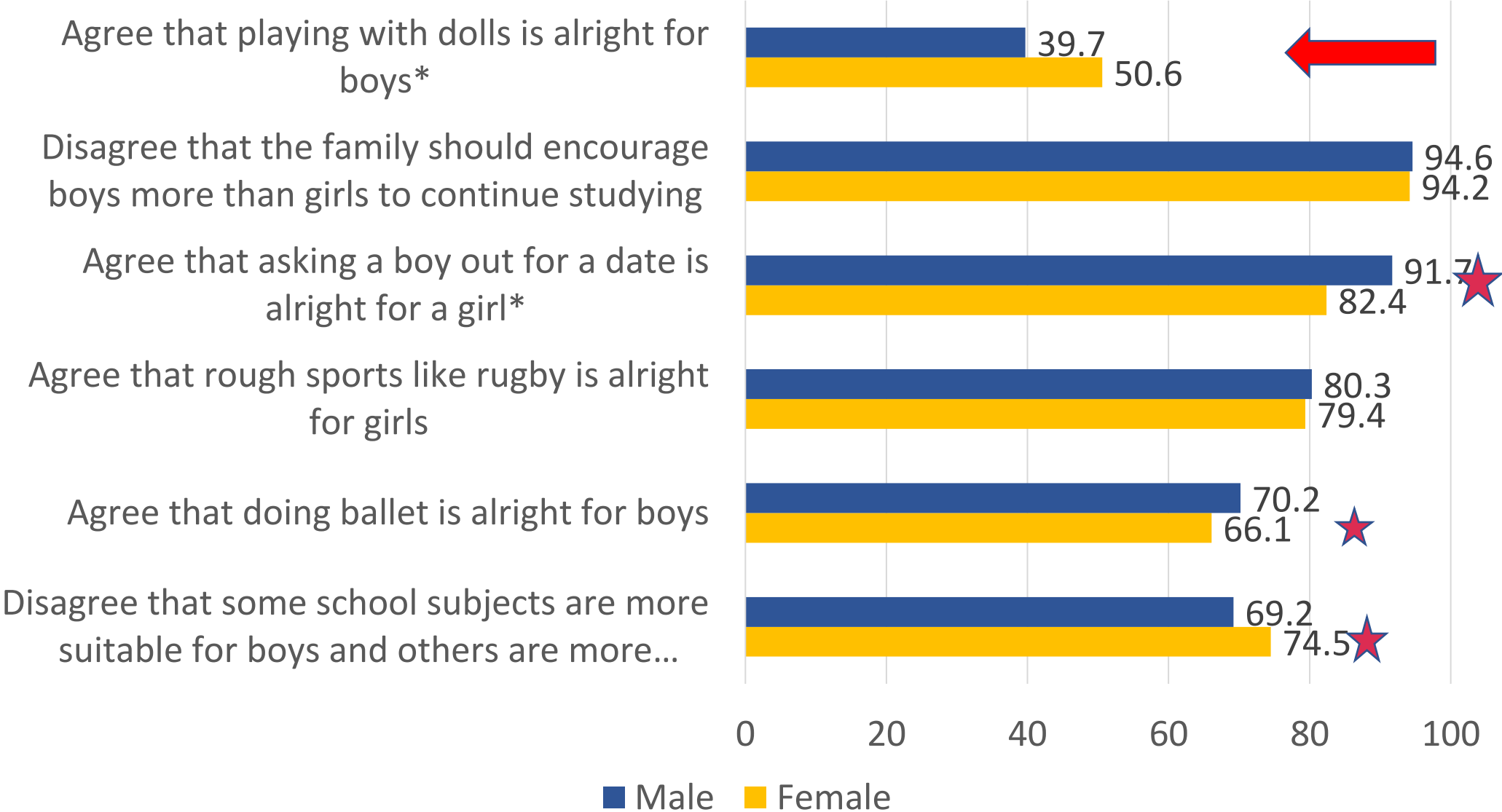
Progressive attitudes on gender roles in private sphere by gender, %



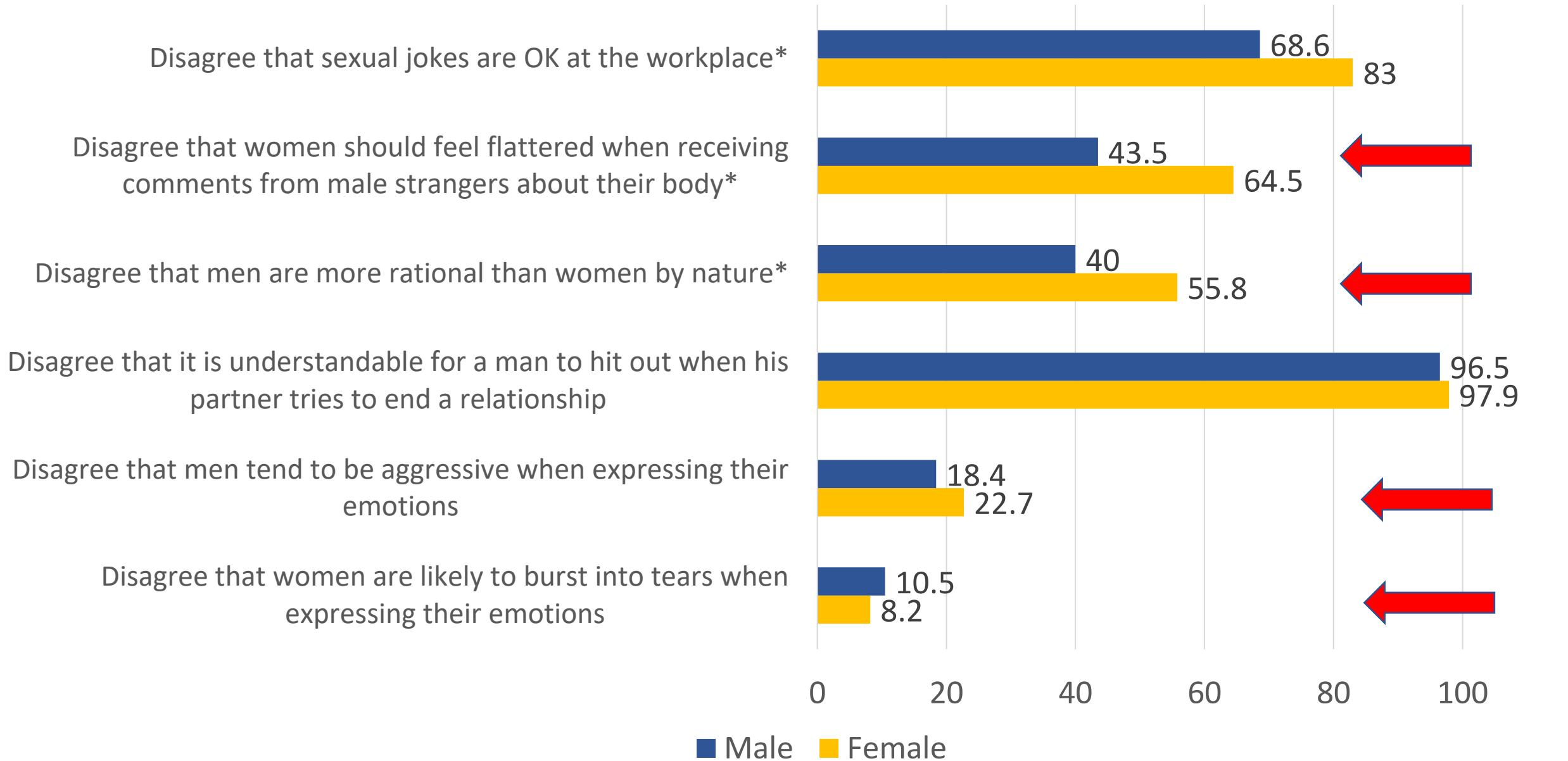
Progressive attitudes on gender roles in public sphere by gender %



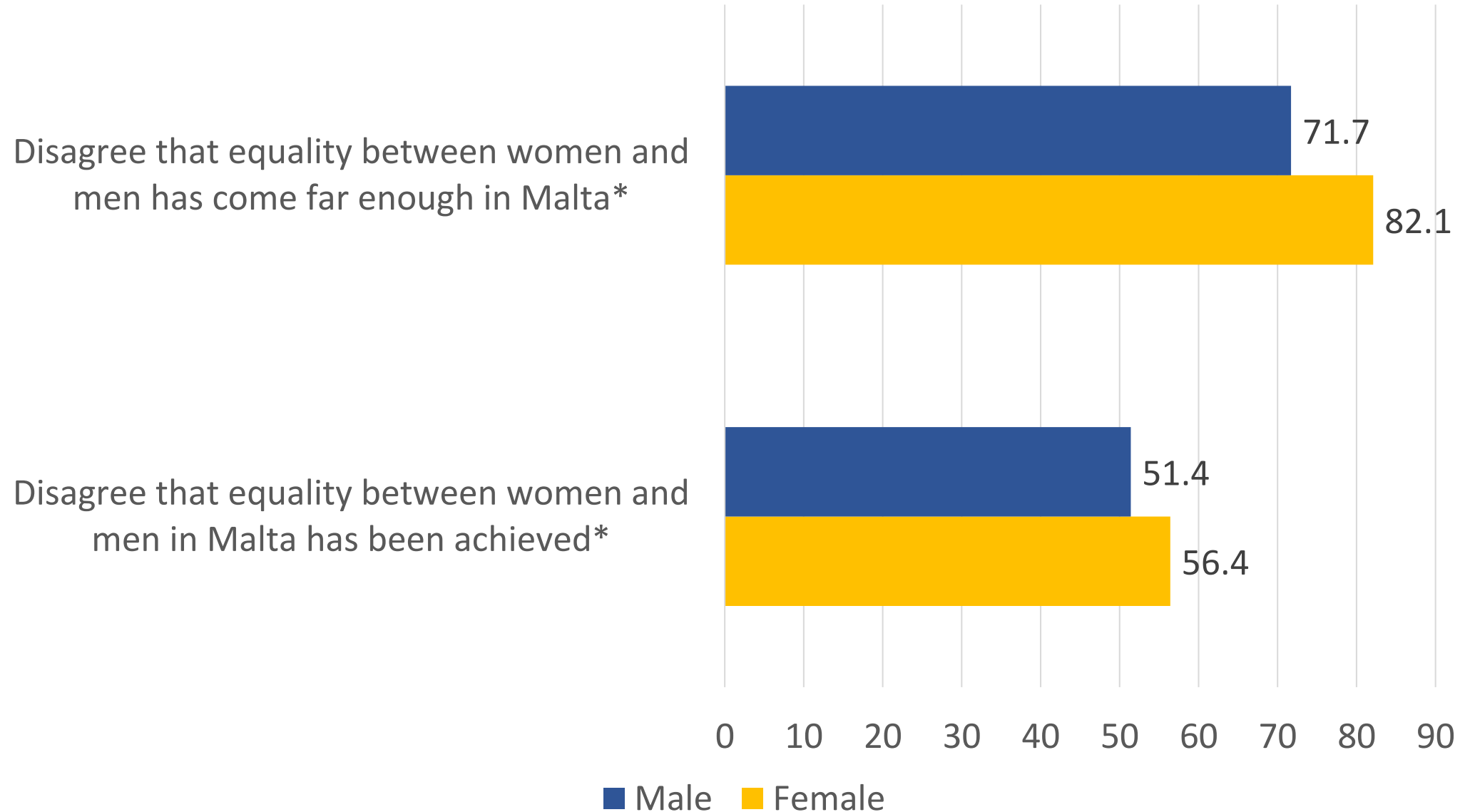
Progressive attitudes regarding children and youth by gender, %



Progressive attitudes regarding gendered behaviour by gender, %



Attainment of equality in Malta by gender , %



Progressive average percentage scores, by gender

	Female	Male
Private sphere	68.8	70.2
Public sphere	78.3	75.2
Social expectations regarding children and youth	74.5	74.3
Social expectations regarding gendered behaviour	55.5	46.3
Attainment of equality in Malta	69.3	61.6
Average	69.3	65.6

Overall conclusions

- Those aged between 18 and 35 years held more progressive gender role perceptions.
- Those with a post-secondary level of education held more progressive gender role perceptions.
- When it came to civil status, those with no children were more likely to have progressive gender role perceptions.
- With regards to district, Northern Harbour and Northern-based residents had more progressive gender role perceptions.
- When it came to occupation, students held the more progressive gender role perceptions.

Difference between perception and behaviour – cognitive dissonance

- When the survey findings were compared to macro-data, it emerged that there was cognitive dissonance.
- There was a discrepancy between the way the respondents answered and what happens in reality.
- This might be due to *systemic structural* and/or *institutional barriers* which may be preventing people from acting out on what they believe.

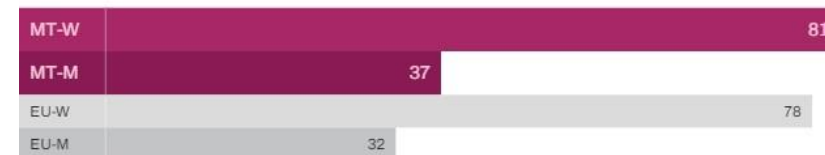
69.0 Care activities

People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%)



Source: Eurofound, EQLS, 2016. EIGE's calculation with microdata.

People doing cooking and/or household, every day (%)



Source: Eurofound, EQLS, 2016. EIGE's calculation with microdata.



Thank you