

## THE LIFE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN ROMANIA – A SHORT STATISTICAL PORTRAITURE

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**Abstract:** *Although the majority of democratic States recognise equality of the opportunity between female and male, it seems that tradition is much more than a mere psycho-social barrier. From this perspective, statistics show that the female is still located in a inferior position to the male. There is still a preference for the occupation of jobs with more poorly paid female and a visible discrimination in terms of remuneration on similar posts. It is true that research had positively evaluated trends, appreciing until recently that will be necessary about 100 years to close the global gender gap. But the latest data indicate on the contrary, an increase in the gap between male and female. The most recent Global Gender GAP report, which tracks progress on gender equality, points out that progress in gender equality has been uneven over the last few years, and in some areas there are still major obstacles. According to data presented by the World Economic Forum, Romanian it ranks last in this respect in UE-28 (ranked 72th in the world). It seems that the lack of a functional social protection system remains for our country the main generator of gender inequality, with female generally having to stay at home to care/support the older/younger members of the family. The present article seeks to achieve from this last perspective a short statistical portraiture of the gender inequalities in Romania, seeking rather to issue than to try to find an explanatory response.*

**Keywords:** *discrimination, employment rates, equal opportunities, employment pattern, gender parity, health perception, household type, internet habits, life expectancy, life satisfaction, nutrition habits, retirement*

**JEL Classification:** *A14, Z1, Z13*

There are many differences, but also similarities when we call into question the lives of men or women. From this perspective we can record many similarities but also differences between the EU states. The fact is that behind the manifest life of each of us there is a dependency on the path. Beyond the gender difference we also depend on the starting dates of each, on the mountains of information that support us when we need to make a decision or when we choose conventionally to a certain direction of walking. It is the place where otherwise the tradition plays very well its roles. This article seeks to assemble all this statistical data by trying to focus them in a puzzle together to set up a statistical portrait of the life of women and men in contemporary Romania. Why is this approach important? Under Article 10 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU for the implementation of its policies, it is aimed at including combating discrimination of any kind, the one based on sex being as important as the others (ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation).

## 1. Living, growing, ageing

### 1.1 Lifeline of women and men

Table 1 is enlightening to understand the differences between women and men with regard to the most important moments of life:

Table 1. Lifeline of women and men

	UE		RO	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
<b>Start of compulsory education (2016)</b>	6 years	6 years	6 years	6 years
<b>Start of first employment (2017)</b>	22 years	23 years	23 years	24 years
<b>Leaving parental home (2018)</b>	27 years	25 years	29,9 years	28 years
<b>Birth of first child (2017)</b>		30,7 years		27,9 years
<b>Retirement (2012)</b>	59,4 years	58,8 years	58 years	56,1 years
<b>Average life expectancy (2019)</b>	75 years	82 years	71,6 years	79,0 years

Source: The author

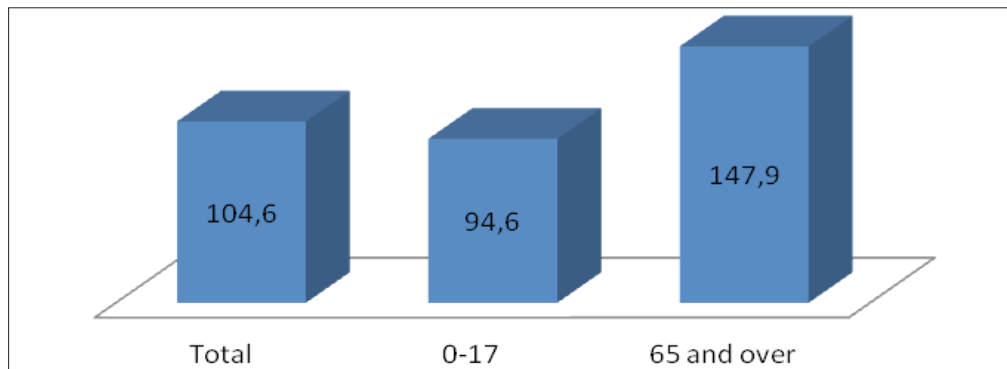
- With regard to the beginning of compulsory education there are no differences - 6 years for both women and men in Romania and the EU;
- The data show that the men start their professional life (first job) earlier with one year than women (22 years in Romania/on average 23 years in the EU);
- Generally at the age of 25, women in EU leave the parental home, two years earlier than men (on average, at Romania level, 28 years is the age at which women leave the parental home, while men at 29.9 years);
- 27.9 years old is the age of the birth of the first child for women in Romania (the European average is 30.7 years);
- The women in Romania retire about two years earlier than men – 56.1 years (the average of the latest data dates back to 2012) and live longer than men with 7 years and six months – 79 years (in all EU member states women live more than men).

## 1.2 Living together

### 1.2.1 Women per 100 men (Eurostat data)

The average lifespan influences the number of women, which was on average in the year 2017, in Romania, 4.6% higher than men (see Fig. 1). Interestingly, until around the age of 17 the report is reversed (in Romania there is a higher rate of birth of boys). The situation is otherwise similar in almost all Member States, with the most significant differences being recorded in the three Baltic states who are among the countries with the largest female populations, in While in Luxembourg, Sweden and Malta the number of men is slightly higher than the women's number.

Figure 1. Women per 100 men, 2017, Romania



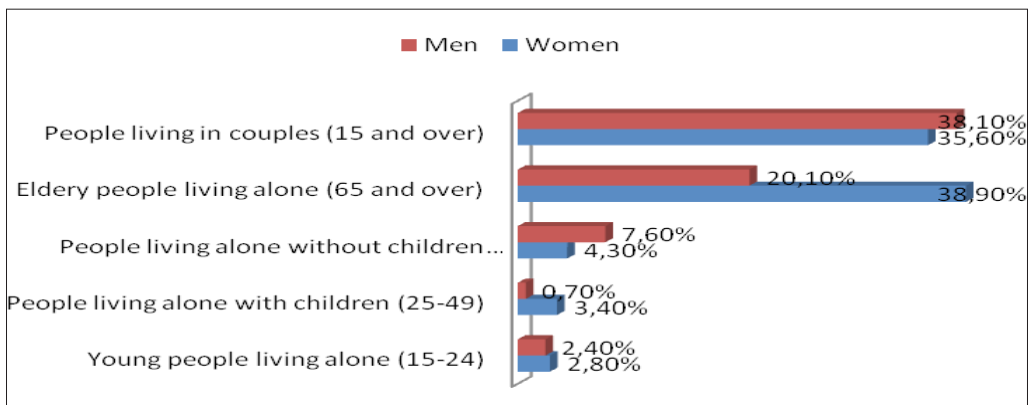
Source: Ec.europa.eu (2017a)

### 1.2.2 Household types

The analysis of households Romania's data emphasizes significant differences in the way of life of women and men (see Fig. 2):

- Among people aged 15 years or over 35.6% of women, respectively 38.10% of men lived in a couple (the EU average was in 2017 45.10% for women and 48.40% for men);
- The percentage of elderly people (65 years and older) who lived alone in 2017 in Romania was 38.90% for female and 20.10% (in the EU the percentage was 40.40% female / 20.10% male);
- Only 4.3% of women in Romania lived in 2017 without any children (7.6% men), while in the EU the percentage was 9.6% (16.3% male);
- 3.4% of women aged 25-49 years lived alone with children in 2017, in Romania, (0.7% of male) while at EU level the ratio was 7.6% to 1.1%;
  - When looking at the way **women** and men **live – in a couple**, single, with or without children – in the **EU** in **2017**, 7.6 % of **women** aged 25-49 **lived** alone.
- 2.8% of young girls from Romania aged 15-24 years lived alone in 2017 comparative with 2.4% of young men of the same age category (at EU level the ratio is 8.5% to 8.1%).

Figure 2. Household types, Romania 2017



Source: Ec.europa.eu (2017a)

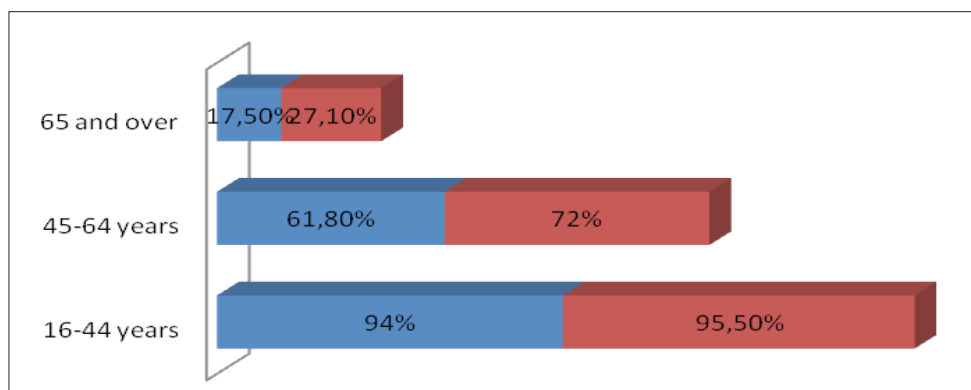
### 1.3 Health perception

#### 1.3.1 Self-perceived health: good and very good

There are many factors that influence the perception about of the own health (among the most important are socio-economic, environmental and cultural conditions). As shown in Figure 3, in 2016, in Romania the likelihood of perceived health as better is greater in the case of men than women:

- 94% of women aged 16-44 years and 95.5% of men of the same age group have considered in 2016 that their health was good and very good (at EU level the ratio was 86% to 87%);
- 61.8% of women aged 45-64 years and 72% of men in the same age group have considered in 2016 that their health status was good and very good (at EU level the ratio was 61% to 65%);
- Only 17,5% of women aged 65 years and above and 27,10% of men of the same age have considered in 2016 that their health status was good and very good (at EU level the ratio was 35% to 41%).

Figure 3. Self-perceived health: good and very good, Romania, 2016



Source: Ec.europa.eu (2016a)

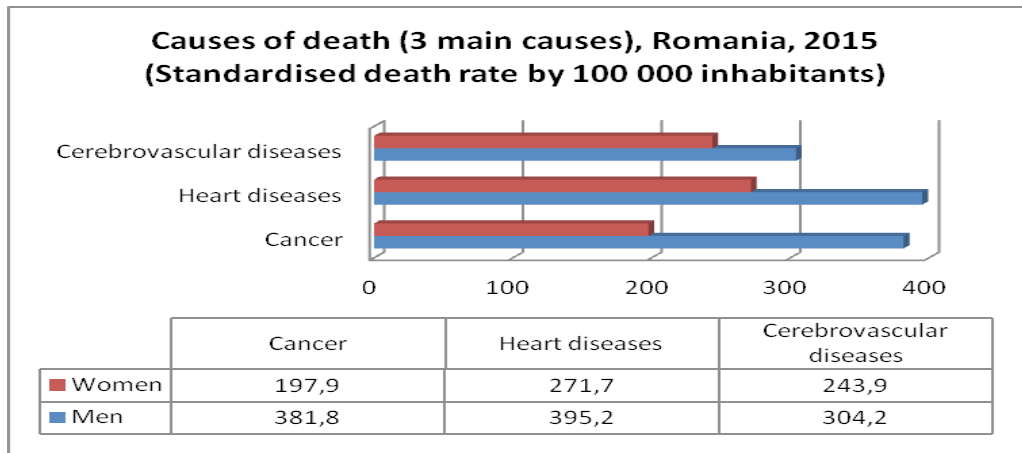
#### 1.3.2 Causes of death

According to statistical data, in 2015:

- In general, both in Romania and in the EU, cardiac diseases, cancer and cerebrovascular diseases are the main common causes of death for both men and women;
- For all three types of causes the number of deaths among men is significantly higher than women's;

- In comparative terms, a different pattern is observed in Romania versus that of the EU as regards deaths caused by cerebrovascular and cardiac diseases (about a double frequency in Romania).
- 395.2 men at 100,000 died of cardiac disease in Romania compared to 271.7 women (at EU level the ratio was 171 to 94);
- 381.8 men at 100,000 died of cancer in Romania compared to 197.9 women (at EU level the ratio was 349 to 201);
- 304.2 men at 100,000 died in Romania of cerebrovascular disease compared to 243.9 women (at EU level the ratio was 93 to 79).

Figure 4. Causes of death



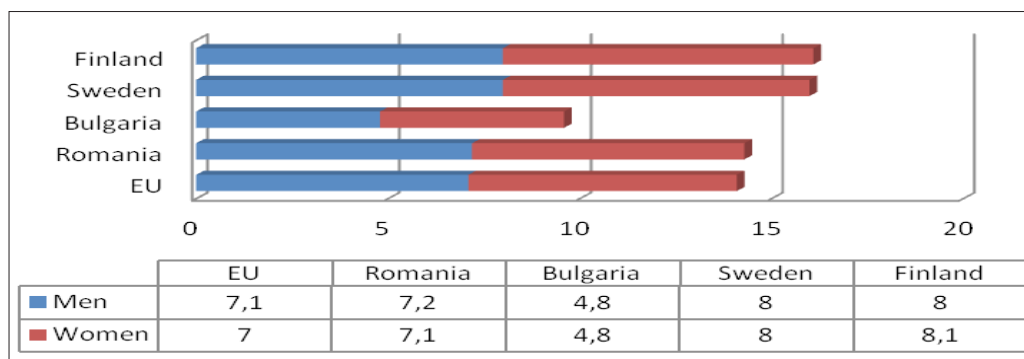
*Source: Ec.europa.eu (2016b)*

### 1.4 Life satisfaction

There are no significant differences concerning the perception of the satisfaction of life (Romania is very close to the European average):

- Women aged 16 years and over was in 2013 to 7.1 level on a scale of 0-10 satisfaction with their own life (7.2 for men of the same age category);
- Significant deviations from the European average has recorded in Bulgaria (4.8);
- In Sweden and Finland has recorded the highest perception of life satisfaction (around 8.0).

Figure 5. Overall life satisfaction, Romania, 2013



Source: *Ec.europa.eu* (2013)

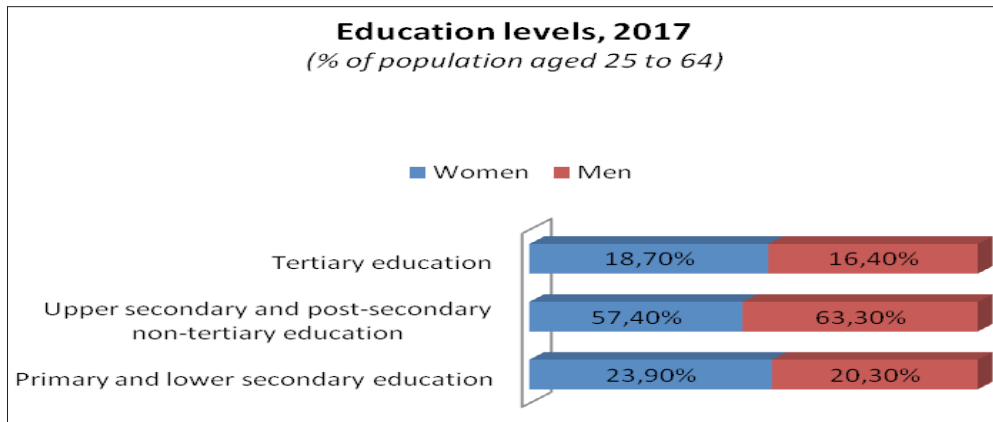
## 2. Learning, working, earning

### 2.1 Education

Generally for lower levels of education there are no significant differences between women and men in the EU. We notice different patterns as we advance towards higher levels of education (the number of women with higher education is higher than of the men with the same level of education). In the case of Romania, for the population between the ages of 25-64 years, the statistical data of the year 2017 have described the following (see Fig. 6):

- If 23.90% of female have graduated from gymnasium, the proportion was at least 3% lower for male - 20.30% (at EU level the proportion of female and male was equal -23%);
- The proportion of female who have graduated the high school or postsecondary education was less than the proportion of the male – 57.40% female, 63.30% male (the situation is somewhat similar at EU level – 45% female, 48% male);
- The situation is favourable for female in higher education, 18.70% of them have graduated this education cycle, compared with 16.40% of male (at European level 33% of female were graduated of higher education compared to 29% male).

Figure 6. Education level, Romania, 2017



Source: *Ec.europa.eu* (2017c)

## 2.2 Employment patterns

Overall, across the EU the employment rate of male is higher than the employment rate of female. Also, an important feature is that the number of children in a household is an important variable in the process of differentiation of employment rates between female and male. If we carefully watch Fig. 7 at the level of 2017, for the population in Romania between the ages of 15-64 years we see the following patterns in terms of employment:

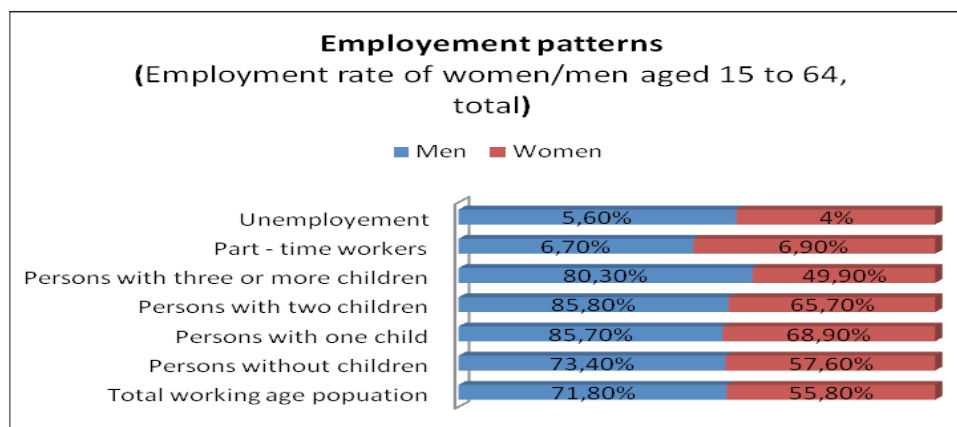
- The percentage of female who do not have a job is higher than of the male – 5.60% versus 4% (in the EU 9.7% of female versus 8.4% of male);
  - The highest EU-level differences were in Greece – 28.1% for female compared to 19.9% for male;
  - There are also opposite patterns – in Ireland while there were 6.5% unemployed female, the percentage of male was one higher - 9.1%;
- The proportion of female who working part-time is higher than the proportion of the male who working part-time - 6.90% versus 6.70%;
  - One of the highest percentages for female working with a fraction of time in the EU area were registered in the Netherlands (77%), while at the opposite pole, the lowest percentages for female working with a fraction of time were registered in Bulgaria – 2%;
  - The highest percentages for male working with a fraction of time in the EU area were registered in the Netherlands (26%) and



Denmark (17%), while at the opposite pole, the lowest percentages for male working with a fraction of time were also recorded in Bulgaria – 2%.

- In the case of female with children, the highest occupancy rate is with one child – 68.9% ( 85.7% for male, while in EU the ratio is 71% to 85%);
- The employment rate of female with two children decreases to 65.7% (for male slightly increased to 85.8%, while in EU the ratio is 70%to 89%);
- The employment rate of female with three or more children decreased to 49.90%, while for male was 80.30% (in EU the ratio is 55% to 84%);
- The occupancy rate for female without children was in 57.60% (73.4% for male).

Figure 7. Employment patterns, Romania, 2017

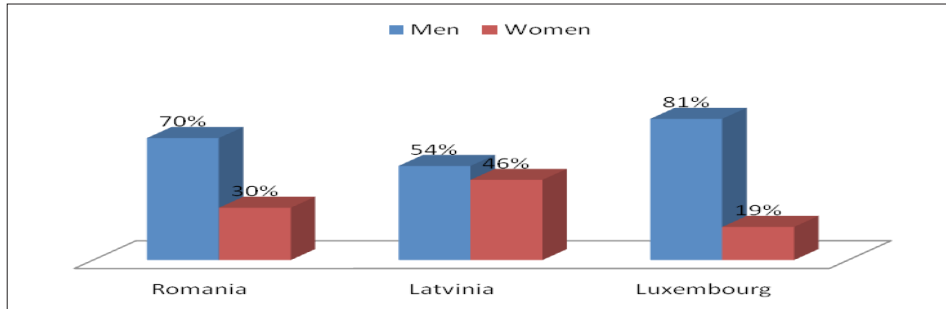


Source: *Ec.europa.eu (2017d)*

### 2.3 Careers

In all EU countries the share of women occupying a managerial function is much lower than men. At the level of the year 2016 only 1/3 of EU managers were women. Practically in no European state the proportion of women manager did not exceed 50%. In such a ranking the highest values were registered in Latvia (46%) and the smallest in Luxembourg (19%). In Romania, in 2017, only 30% of women have occupied a managerial function.

Figure 8. Managers, 2017

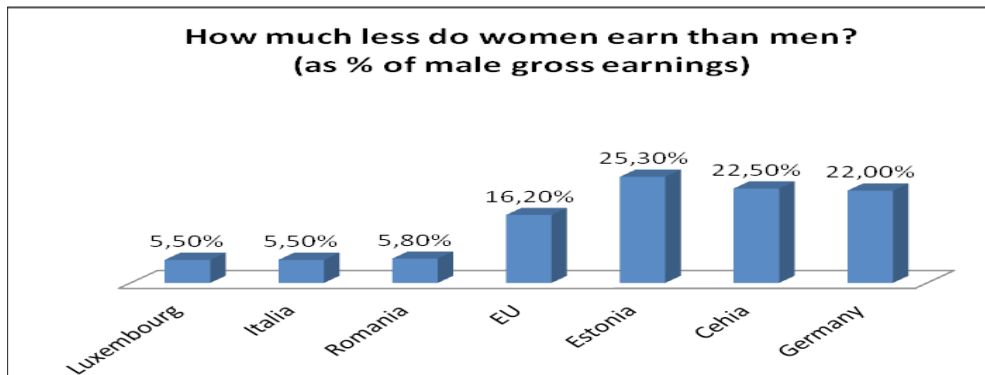


Source: *Ec.europa.eu*. (2017e)

## 2.4 Earnings

At EU level in general a female earns on average less with 16% than a male (16.3% in 2015). Even if the pay gap varies from state to state, on average female earn less than male in all EU countries. If the biggest differences between female and male in wage gains were recorded in Estonia (26.9%), at the opposite pole, the smallest were registered in Luxembourg and Italy – 5.5%. As seen from Fig. 9 in Romania the gender pay gap was not very high: 5.8% in favour of male.

Figure 9. How much less do women earn than men (as % of male gross earnings), Romania, 2016

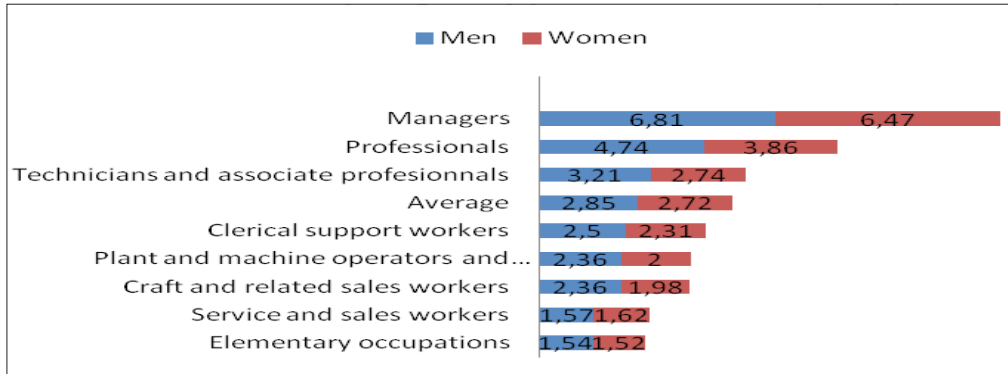


Source: *Ec.europa.eu* (2016c)

The pay gap between women and men is a consequence of several factors (cultural, legal, economic, social). The fact is that when comparing wage earnings per hour, for all nine groups of professions and in absolutely all EU countries, including in Romania, women generally won in 2014 less than men.

Figure 10 is very clear for the description of the salary differences in Romania in 2014 (the only area in which women had higher earnings than men was that of workers in services and sales).

Figure 10. Mean hourly wages by profession, Romania, 2014 (EUR)



Source: *Ec.europa.eu (2016c)*

### 3. Eating, shopping, surfing, socialising

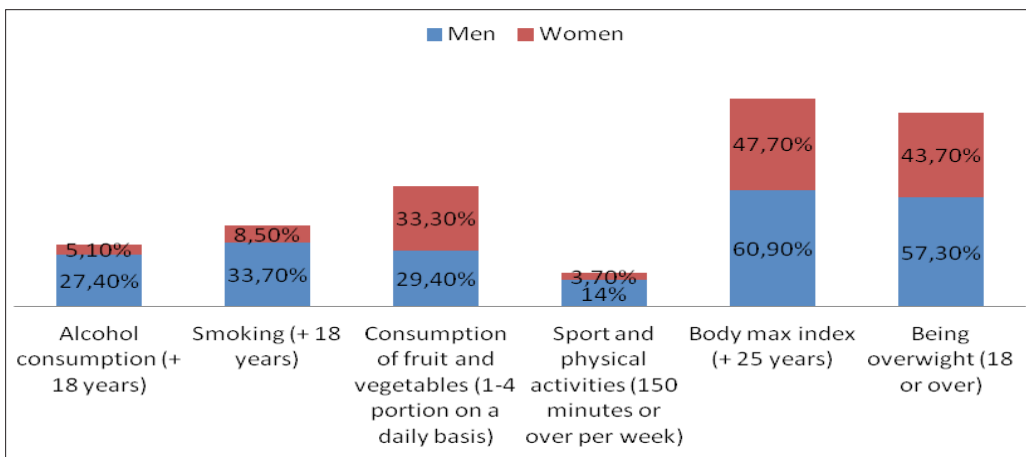
#### 3.1 Nutrition habits and sports practice

The analysis of food habits or sports practice also highlights major differences in behaviour between male and female. As seen in Figure 11 Romania does not make a distinct note, so:

- A higher percentage of male than female (18 years and over) consumed weekly alcohol-27.40% versus 5.10% (in the EU 38% male versus 23% female);
  - In the case of male (extreme situations) on alcohol consumption has situated Latvia at 21% and in the UK at 51%;
  - In the case of female (extreme situations) regarding alcohol consumption, Romania is located at 5% and Lithuania and the UK at 40%;
- The situation is somewhat similar in terms of smoking (18 years and above) – 33.70% versus 8.50% (in the EU 24% male versus 16% female);
  - The percentages differs greatly from one country to another – for male between 40% (Cyprus) and 10% (Sweden), and for female between 9% in Romania and 23% in Austria;

- In the case of regular consumption of fruit and vegetables (condition for healthy eating) the situation is balanced – 33.30% of female, respectively 29.40% of male ate in 2014 between one and four portions of vegetables and fruits daily (in the EU 54% of female, respectively 49% of male);
- With regard to regular physical activity (condition of a healthy life) the differences are high, if 14% of male have allocated at least 150 minutes weekly to sporting activities, only 3.70% of female have had regular frequency in practicing of sport (in the EU 36% male and 26% female);
- In 2014, in Romania have considered overweight approximately 57.30% of male compared with 43.70% of female (in the EU 57% male, 44% female).

Figure 11. Nutrition habits and sports practice in the Romania, 2014



Source: *Ec.europa.eu (2014a)*

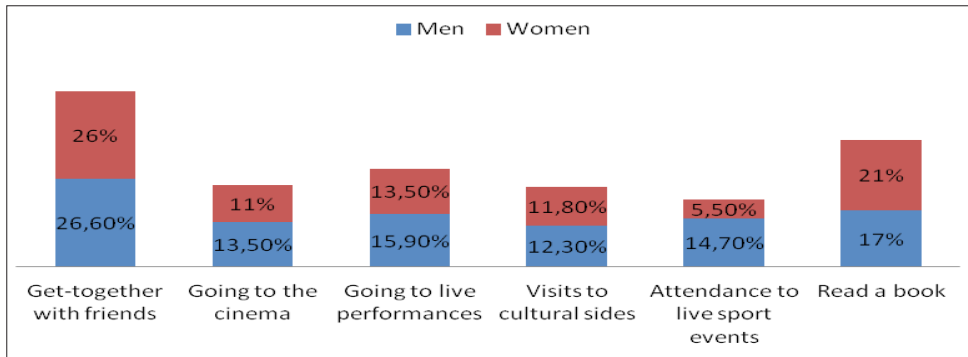
### 3.2 Cultural habits and social relations

Including in terms of cultural activities there are behaviour differences (Fig. 12):

- 26.60% of male and 26% of female agree to meetings with friends;
- 13.5% of male and 11% of female go to the cinema;
- 15.9% of male respectively 13.5% female go to live performances;
- 12.3% of male respectively 11.8% of female visit places of cultural interest;

- 14.7% of male, respectively 5.5% of female are assisting in various sporting events;
- 21% of female, those 17% of male read a book.

Figure 12. Cultural habits and social relations

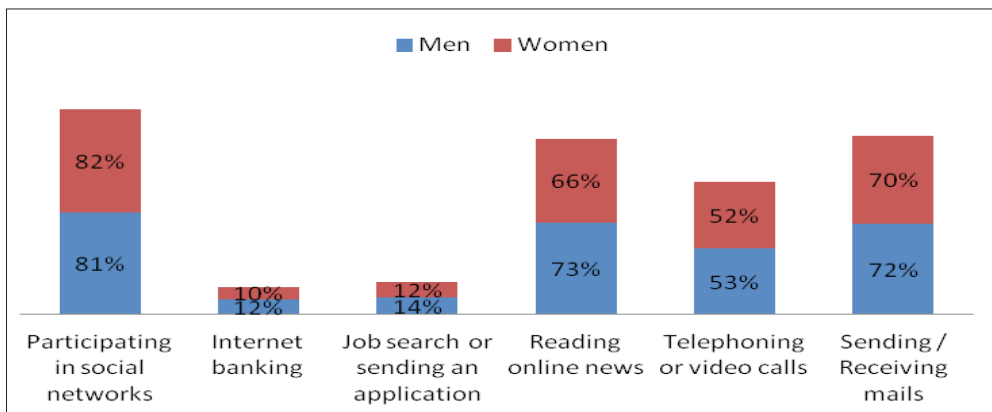


Source: Ec.europa.eu (2015)

### 3.3 Internet habits, 2017

Generally in the use of the internet there are no significant differences (see Fig. 13). Perhaps the male (73%) are reading more than female (66%) online news. But there are no major differences in the use of the Internet for participation in social networks (81% male / 82% female), internet Banking (10% male / 12% female), sending/receiving e-mails (72% male / 70% female), job search (14% male / 12% female) or telephone calls (53% male / 52% female).

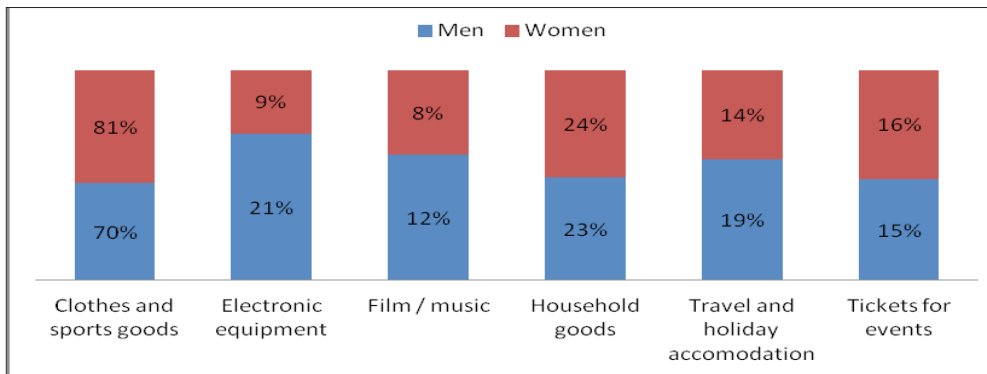
Figure 13. Internet activities, Romania, 2017



Source: Ec.europa.eu (2017f)

There is also different behaviour in terms of online shopping (see Fig. 14): For clothing 81% Female / 70, 3% Male, and for electronic products 21% Male / 9% Female. However, the differences are very small for the purchase of films (12% Male / 8% Female), household goods (24% Female / 23% Male), tickets to various events (16% Female / 15% Male) or reservation of transport and accommodation (19% Male / 14% Female).

Figure 14. Online shopping, Romania, 2017



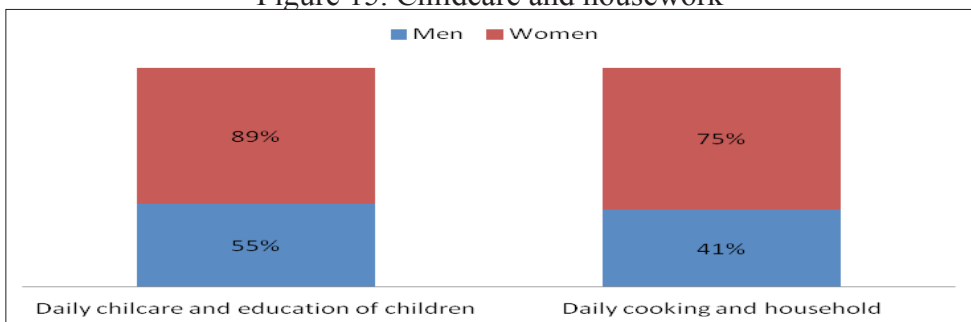
Source: *Ec.europa.eu (2017f)*

### 3.4 Childcare and housework

In all EU member states the time devoted to childcare or household activities is much higher for women than for men. The situation is also similar in Romania where:

- Only 55% of male (compared with 89% of female) took care of their children daily,
- Only 41% of male (compared with 75% of female) performed daily household activities.

Figure 15. Childcare and housework



Source: *Ec.europa.eu (2016d)*

## Conclusions

- There are still major differences in the proportion of female in the employment of managerial functions in Romania;
- Only 30% of female in Romania were in 2017 on a leadership function, although the proportion of licensed female was in 2017 higher than of the male (18.70% versus 16.40%);
- In Romania, female continue to be preferred in the worst-paid economic sectors;
- In the case of the female the highest occupancy rate is for a family with one child – 68.9%, compared with 85.7% for male;
- In Romania, only 55% of male (compared with 89% of female) take care of their children daily;
- In Romania only 41% of male (compared with 75% of female) perform household daily activities;
- The lack of a functional social protection system remains for our country perhaps the main generator of the gender inequality, with female generally having to stay at home to care/support the older/younger members of the family;
- Even if in a European Commission study on female in the digital age, it is indicated that female's employment in the digital sector could lead to an increase in GDP by 16 billion euros annually in the EU, only 24.9% of women who follow higher education obtain a degree in the technological fields, while only 14.8% of the founders of start-ups are female;
- Romania was placed from this perspective in 2018 in the 27th place, ahead of Bulgaria, being noted with the 33.2 index, while the European average is 49.1 points (in this ranking Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg and Denmark have achieved the best results, while Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Italy have the least points).

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