

# Findings of the Project “Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe”



Presentation for the seminar  
“Findings from European Youth Research”  
organised by the *UP2<sub>Youth</sub>* project and DG Research

Brussels, 5th March 2009



# the project in key words

## ■ title:

- full title: Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe.  
Modern Mobile Living and its Relation to Quality of Life
- acronym: JobMob and FamLives

## ■ financing:

- FP6 – budget: 1 277 350 Euro

## ■ duration:

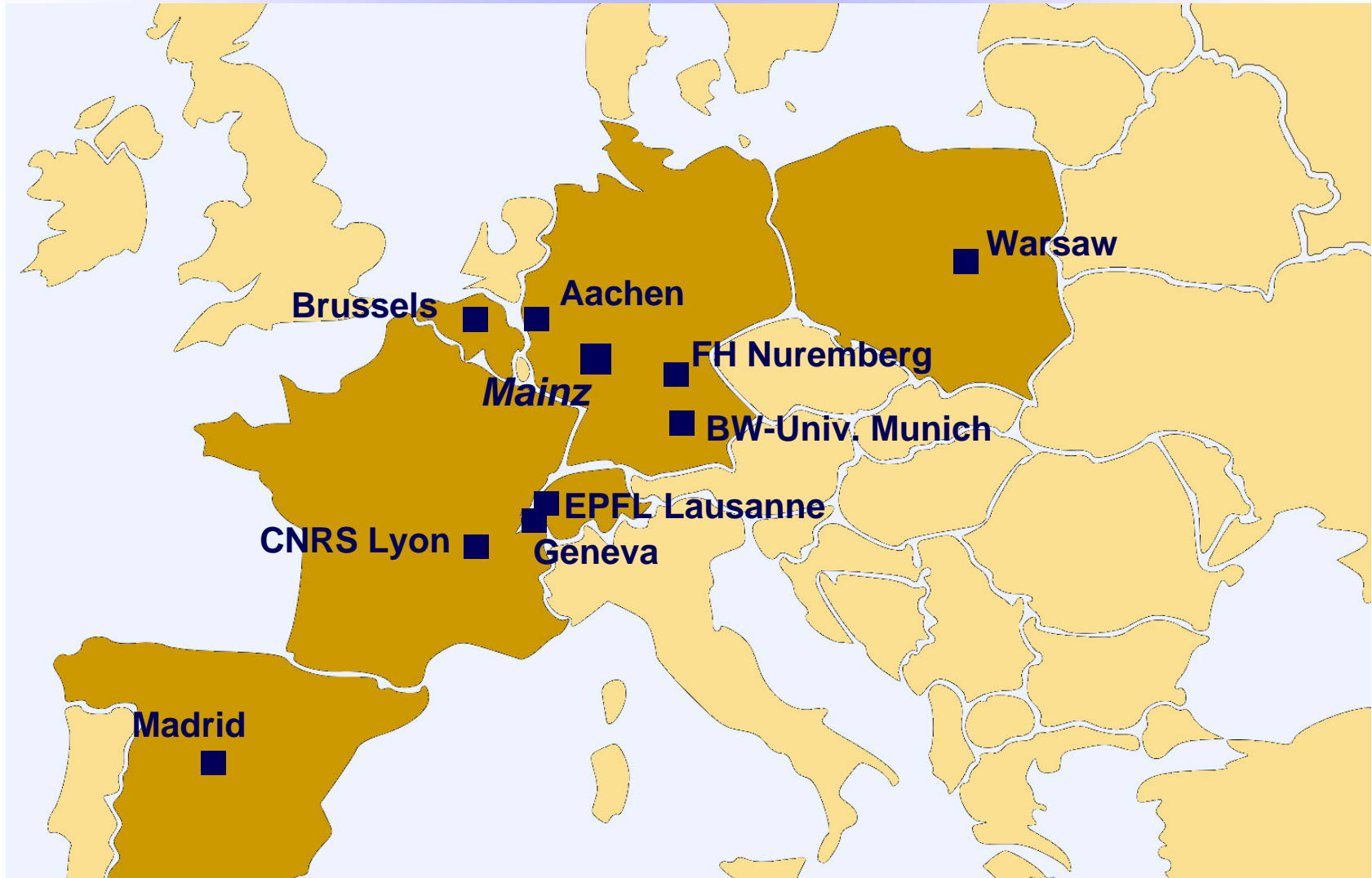
- February 2006 to October 2008 (33 months)

## ■ six participating countries:

- Germany, Belgium, France, Poland, Spain, Switzerland
- coordinator: Prof. Dr. Norbert F. Schneider (Mainz/Germany)



# participating countries and organisations





# methodological design

## ■ survey:

- standardised questionnaire
- equal (translated) questionnaire in all six participating countries
- CATI (phone interviews) – Poland: CAPI (face-to-face interviews)
- total n: 7220 interviews
- field work: April to July 2007

## ■ sampling technique

- universe: residential population, aged 25 to 54 years
- first sample: Gabler-Häder random selection (fully representative)
- second sample: random selection of job mobile people
- within household: last birthday method
- weights are correcting non response and design biases

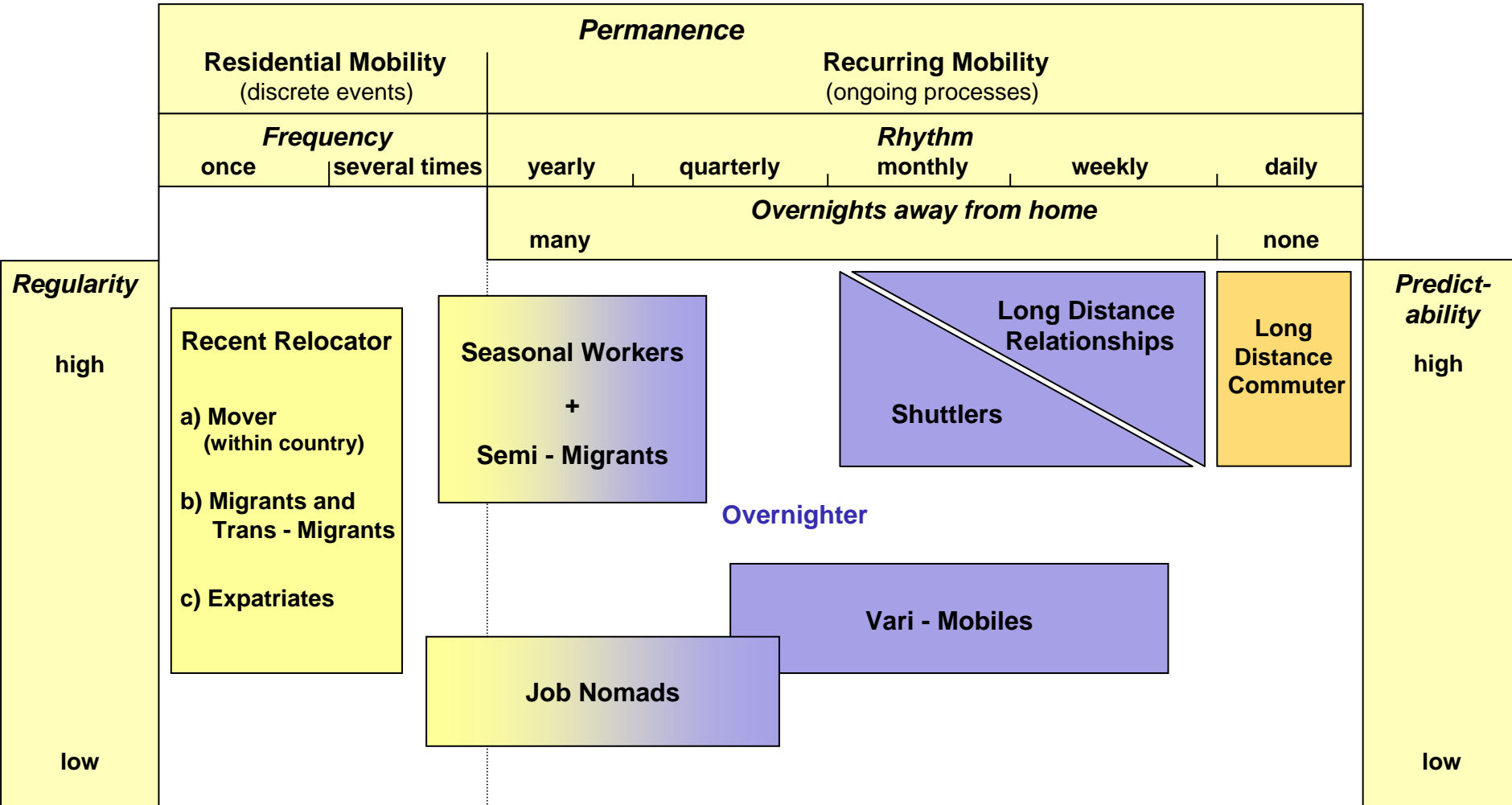


# research topic

- what do we mean by “job mobilities”?
  - *spatial* mobility – due to *job-related* reasons
  - a *large extent* of mobility that may affect social life
- main forms of job mobility
  - daily long distance commuting
    - at least 60 minutes one way, at least 3 times a week
  - overnight business travel
    - at least 60 overnights away from home during the last year
  - long distance relationships
    - for job reasons, at least 60 minutes travel between households
  - recent relocation
    - within last 3 years, at least 50 km between old and new residence



# a typology of mobile living





# main research questions

- describing job mobility
  - How many people are / have been mobile?
  - In which forms are people mobile?
- analysing causes of / obstacles for mobility
  - In which jobs / branches are mobility demands likely?
  - Which socio-demographic groups are affected / willing to become mobile?
- analysing consequences of mobility
  - Does mobility affect family planning?
  - Does mobility affect the quality of social relationships?
  - Does mobility affect the job career?



# what we already know

- Europeans seem rather sedentary and *immobile*.
  - 80% of the Europeans (EU 25\*) live in the region in which they grew up.
  - 1,5% of the Europeans (EU 25) live in another than their home country (migrants).
  - Only 25% of these migrants migrated for job reasons – but 75% due to private reasons: mainly love and climate.
  - 1% of the Europeans (EU 25) in the employable age move for job reasons per year; the same is true for 2,3% of the US-Americans and 2,1% of the Canadians.

\* 25 countries of the European Union, without Romania and Bulgaria.

Sources: Eurostat 2006; EU Commission 2007; US Department of Labor 2002.



# How mobile is the European workforce? current and former mobility experiences (in %)

	F	D	E	PL	CH	B	EU6
Currently mobile	15	19	14	15	13	17	16
Formerly mobile	36	31	38	21	38	25	32
Without mobility experience	49	51	48	63	49	58	52
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Computation: weighted data, percentages of all people working for pay



# In which ways are people mobile? general patterns of current mobility (in %)

	F	D	E	PL	CH	B	EU6
Residentially mobile	27	22	12	12	18	11	20
Recurringly mobile	65	68	83	76	73	87	72
Mobile in both ways	8	9	6	12	9	2	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Computation: weighted data, percentages of all people working for pay



# In which ways are people mobile? *specific* patterns of current mobility (in %)

		<b>EU6</b>
Recurring Mobilities	Long Distance Commuter	41
	Vari-Mobiles (often away on business trips)	20
	Weekend Commuter (Shuttler)	3
	Long-Distance Relationship	4
Residential Mobilities	Mover	15
	Migrant	2
	Expatriate	3
Multi-Mobilities	Two or more mobilities at the same time	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Computation: weighted data, percentages of all people working for pay



# In which ways *would* people become mobile? willingness to become mobile (in %)

willingness to ...	EU6	France (least willing)	Germany (most willing)
... migrate to another country	16	7	27
... move to another region within the same country	19	11	28
... start long distance commuting	27	16	36
not willing to become mobile (in any form)	53	65	38

Computation: weighted data, percentages of non-mobile people working for pay



# Are certain age groups more affected? mobility by birth cohort (in %)

	F	D	E	PL	CH	B	EU6
aged 45-54	12	15	10	10	11	16	13
aged 35-44	14	17	12	11	14	17	15
aged 25-34	21	26	19	23	15	19	22

Computation: weighted data, share of mobile persons among people working for pay



# Is mobility increasing? mobility experience by birth cohort (in %)

	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>EU6</b>
aged 45-54	47	50	48	35	49	39	46
aged 35-44	56	47	47	30	55	41	47
aged 25-34	51	51	59	44	49	46	52

Computation: weighted data, share of (formerly) mobiles among people working for pay



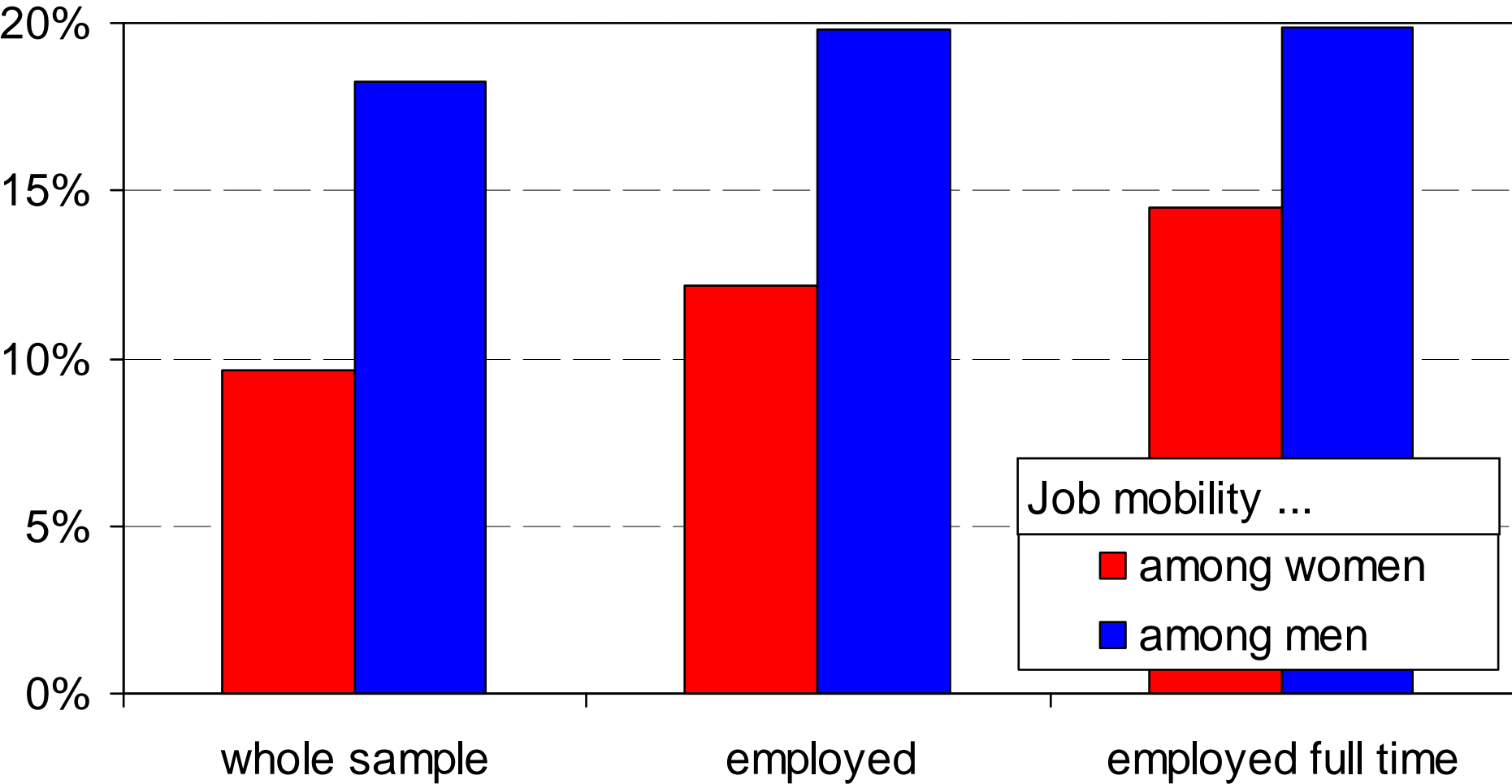
# Are certain educational levels more affected? mobility by education (in %)

	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>EU6</b>
University	22	33	18	23	19	21	24
Upper Secondary	13	17	13	15	17	15	14
Lower Secondary	11	15	12	10	9	17	13

Computation: weighted data, share of mobile persons among all people working for pay

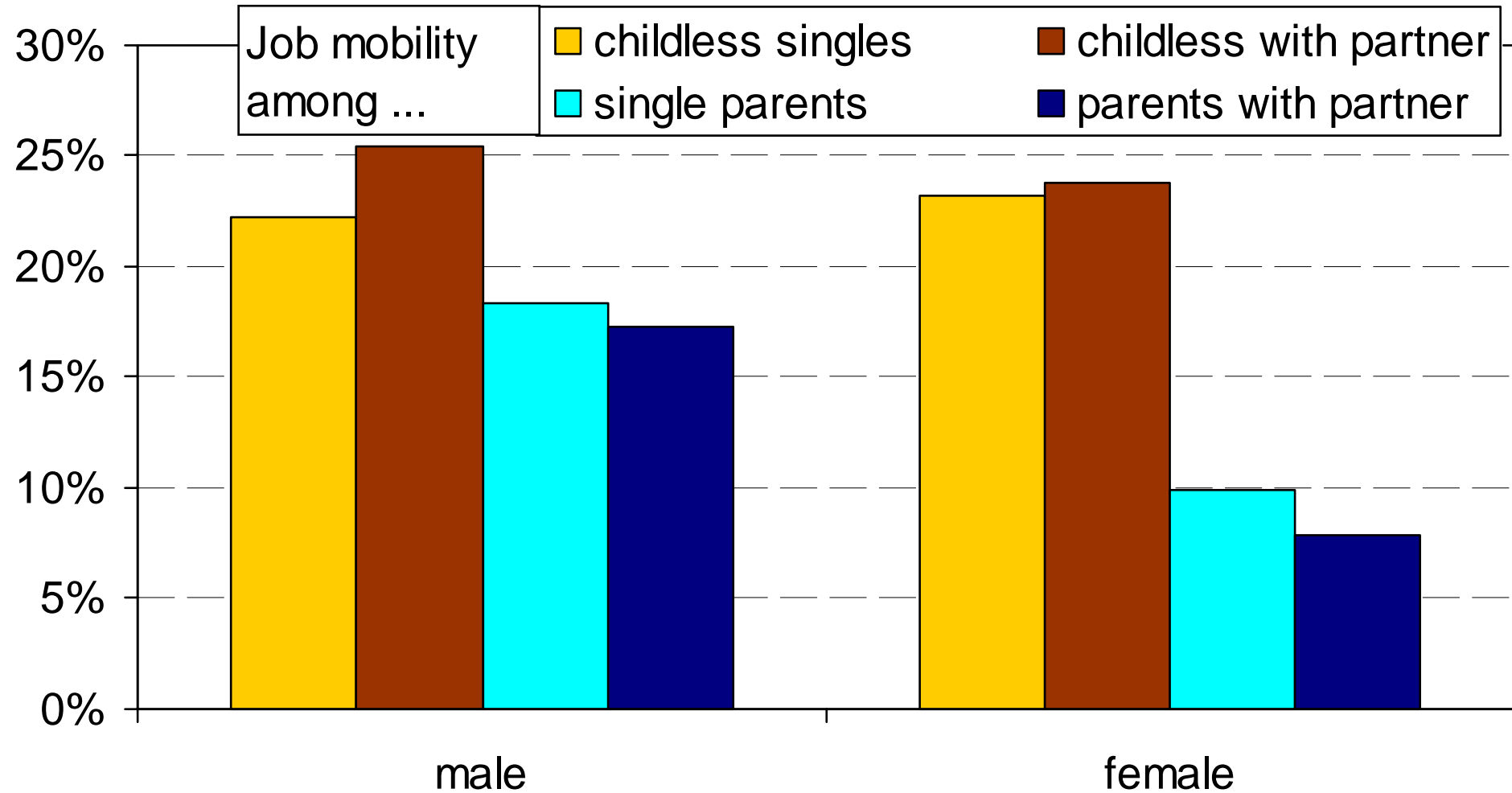


# Are there gender differences? mobility by sex and employment (in %)



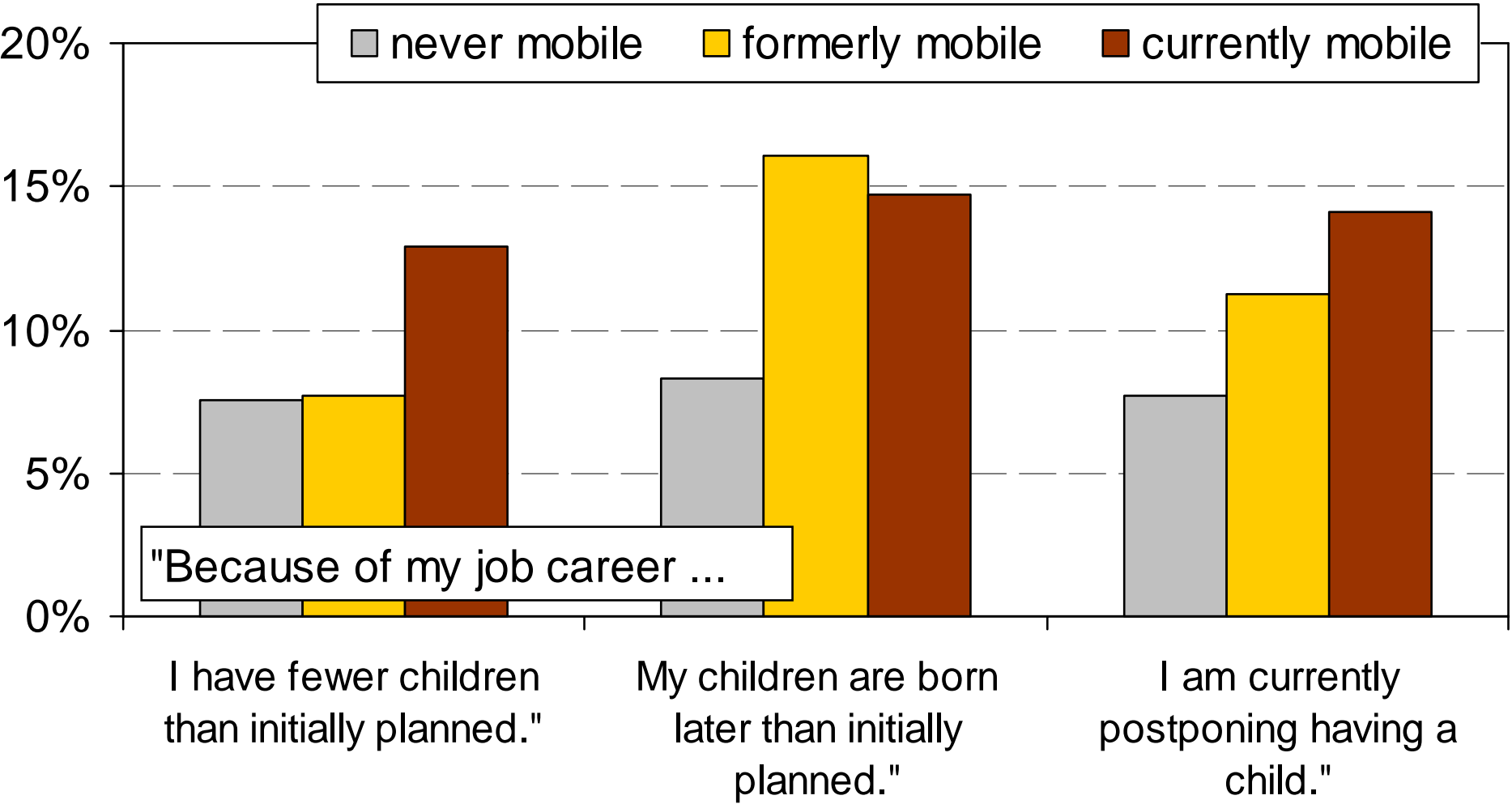


# Can you be an (active) parent and job mobile? mobility by sex and parenthood (in %)





# Does mobility affect family planning? evaluation of own family biography by mobility (in %)





# (further) relevant circumstances

## ■ gender and family situation

- Men's mobility is *hardly*, women's mobility *strongly* influenced by parenthood. This interaction effect is particularly strong in Germany and Switzerland.
- As long as women are childless they are (nearly) as mobile as men.
- If women become mobile they tend to relocate; men prefer commuting.

## ■ socio-demographic situation

- Younger people (under 35 years) are more mobile than elder people – probably because they have fewer ties (like home ownership) and less established job situations.
- Younger people tend to relocate; elder people rather commute.



# (further) relevant circumstances

## ■ socio-economic situation

- People with university degrees are highly mobile.
- Higher educated people are more willing to relocate; people with lower education are rather willing to commute.

## ■ job situation

- People in insecure employment situations are highly mobile.
- People in third and fourth sector jobs – and people in the transportation branch – are more mobile than others.



# (further) relevant consequences

## ■ family lives

- Increasing mobility requirements – especially for women – can postpone or hinder births of children and complicate family planning.
- Mobility of a *male* partner tends to significantly shift the distribution of housework towards a more traditional model.
- Mobility of a *female* partner tends to *slightly* shift the distribution of housework towards a more equal model.

## ■ job career

- For a majority of employees today, mobility rather prevents unemployment or social downward mobility than causing career advancement.

**Thank you for your attention!**

For further information:

**[www.jobmob-and-famlives.eu](http://www.jobmob-and-famlives.eu)**

Norbert F. Schneider & Gerardo Meil (Eds.) (2008):

*Mobile Living Across Europe I. Relevance and Diversity of Job-Related Spatial Mobility in Six European Countries.* Opladen & Farmington Hills: Barbara Budrich.

Norbert F. Schneider & Beate Collet (Eds.) (2009):

*Mobile Living Across Europe II. Causes and Consequences in Cross-cultural Perspective.* Opladen & Farmington Hills: Barbara Budrich.