Migration intentions – between dreams and definite plans
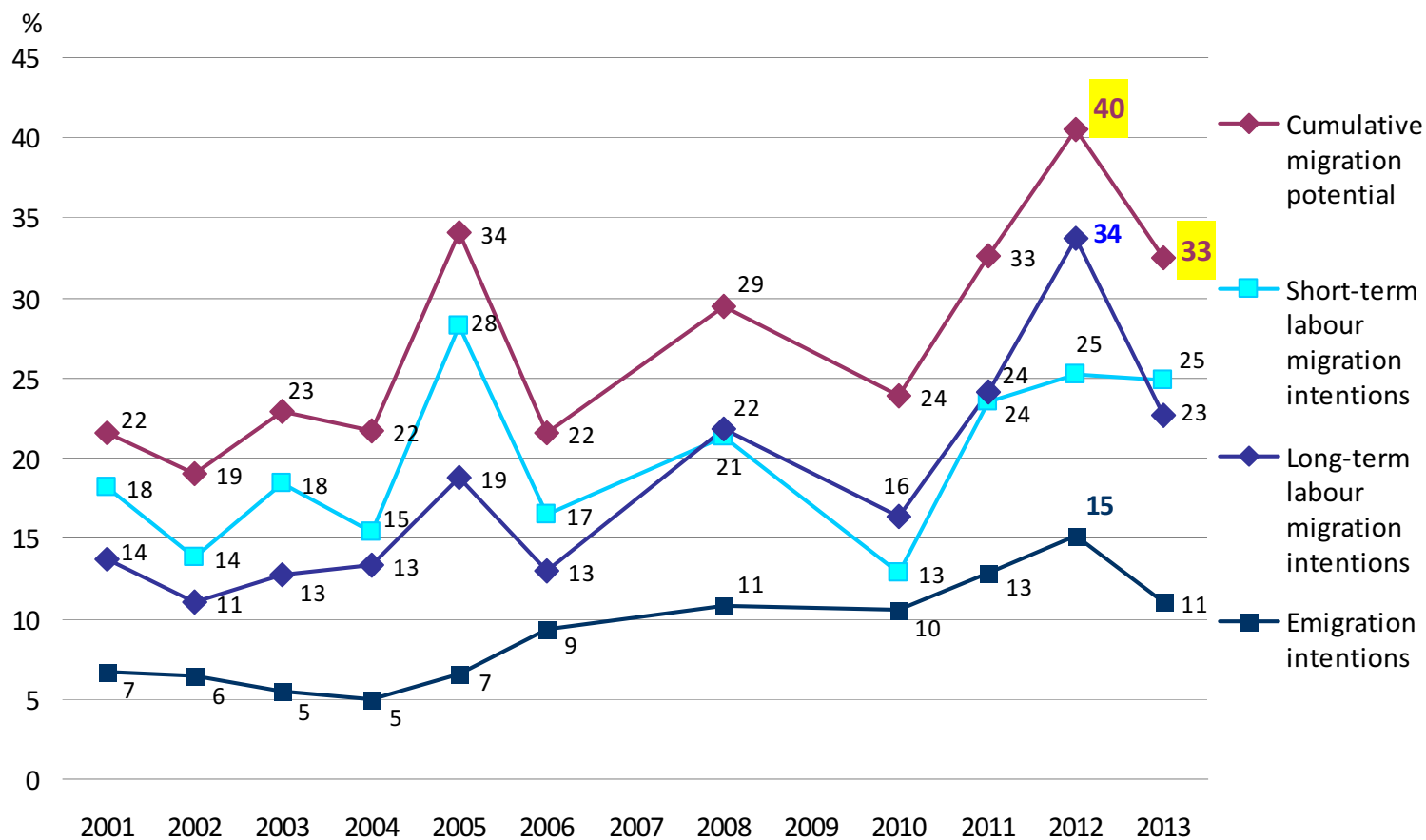
The impact of life-course events on different types of migration potential

Irén GÖDRI – Gábor Attila FELEKY

European Population Conference 2014

25–28 June, Budapest

Trend of migration potential in population aged 18–40 in Hungary, 2001–2013

Theoretical considerations, and previous research findings

....

- – On individual level migration intentions are important indicators of the realisation of migration

  (De Jong et al. 1985, Lu 1998, Kley – Mulder 2010,

  Kley 2011, Van Dalen – Henkens 2008)

- – *Theory of planned behaviour* (Ajzen 1991, 2005)

- ⟶ previous migration intention is a primary determinant of migration behaviour (De Jong 2000)

Therefore: studies on migration intentions can provide information on the *characteristics* and *motivation of prospective migrants* – if **real migration intentions** are grasped.

HDRI

Migration as a three-stage process
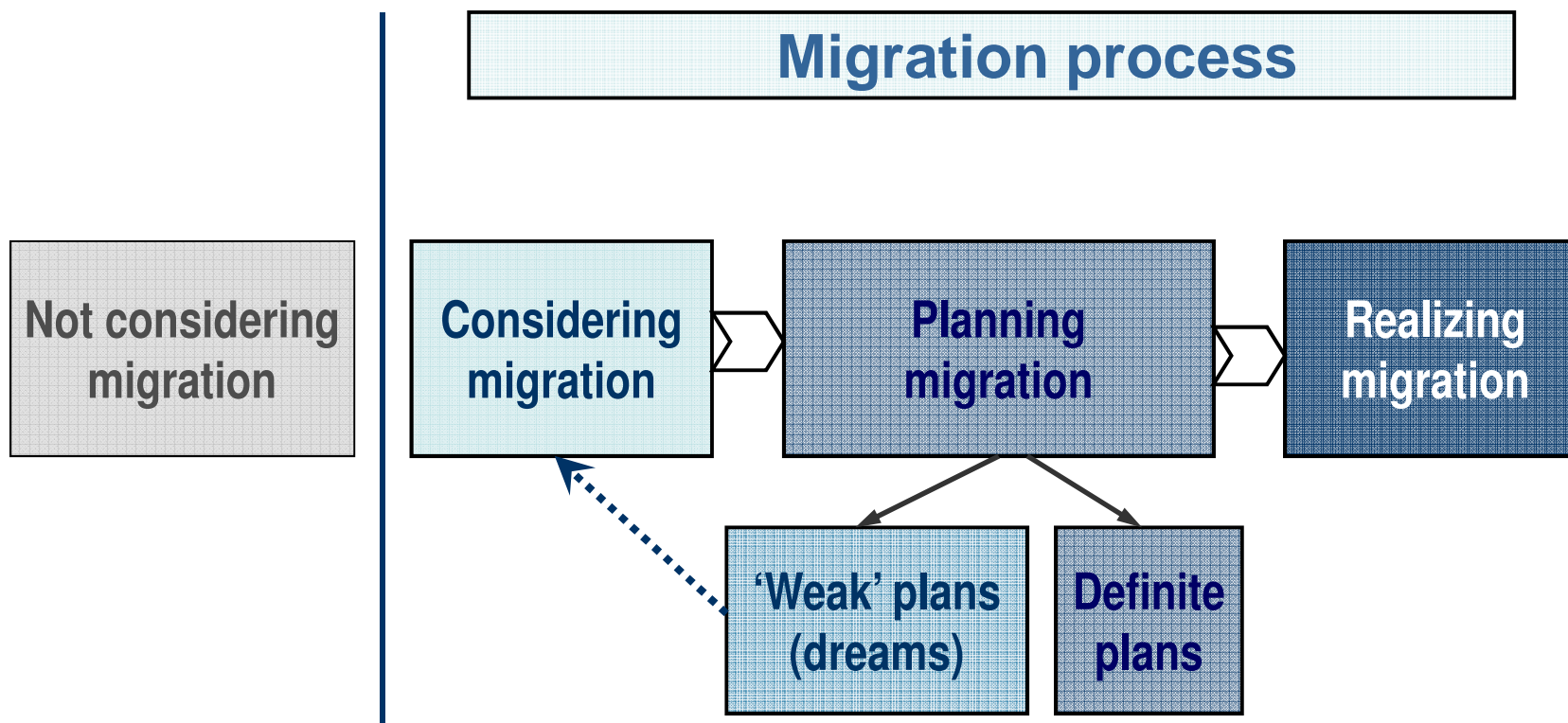
Research questions

....

- What are the major individual determinants of migration intentions, and what role life-course events play in planning migration?

- What are the characteristics of people with different type of migration intentions ('*dreamers*' and '*serious planners*')?

- How different types of migration intentions are affected by life-course events?

Data and method

DATA:

'*Migration plans in Hungary among the 18–40 aged population*' survey

- – carried out by the HDRI in 2013*
- – 1,464 respondents
- – representative with respect to sex, age-group, educational level and type of settlement

METHOD

1) Logistic regression: *having migration plans* vs. *not having;* the impact of life-course events
2) Selecting *serious planners* and '*dreamers*', comparing these two groups – descriptive analysis
3) Testing the influence of life-course events separately for these two groups

HDRI

The selection of serious planners

According to responses on the filtering questions '**serious planners**' are those who…

> … claim to have serious thoughts on migration or have already made the decision **&**

> … plan to move in the next 1-2 years **&**

> … presume very likely or certain to realize the move **&**

> … have already taken the first steps towards preparing for migration

The rest ⟶ '**dreamers**'

HDRI

Hypotheses, control variables

Assumptions:

1) Migration decision-making is influenced by life-course events – especially during life-course transitions.

2) The influence of life-course events is higher in case of '*serious planners*' than in case of '*dreamers*'.

Control variables:

- *socio-demographic characteristics*: gender, age, marital status, number of children, labour market status, type of settlement
- *human capital*: educational level, command of a foreign language, previous migration experience, health status
- *financial resources*: perception of livelihood situation
- *network capital*: family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances living abroad
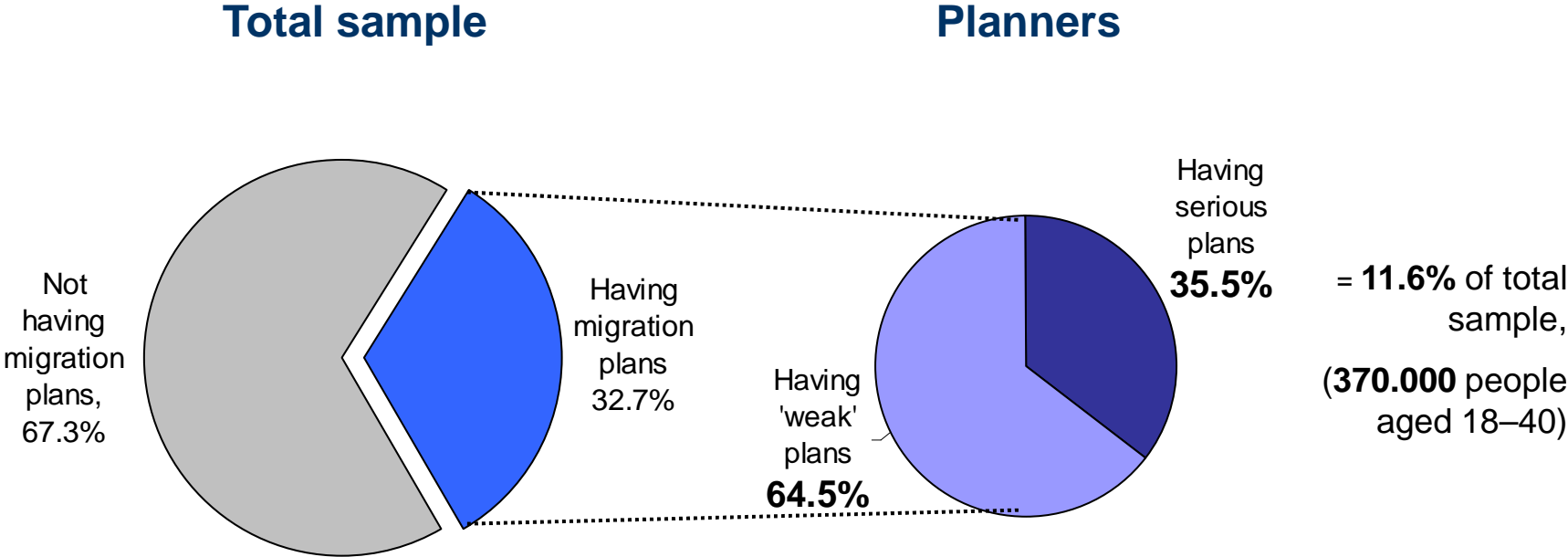
HDRI

Former and anticipated life-course events

Life-course events over the past three years	In the whole sample (aged 18–40)	In early adulthood (aged 18–29)
Starting higher education	7,0	**13,6**
Completing school/higher education	11,9	**23,3**
Marriage	4,1	4,9
Starting to live with a partner	9,2	**13,2**
Divorce/separation	4,8	3,8
Leaving the parental home	9,6	**14,8**
Birth of a child	14,6	12,7
Starting employment	16,1	**21,9**
Becoming unemployed	11,2	10,6
Changing employment	14,0	11,0

Anticipated life-course events in the next three years	In the whole sample (aged 18–40)	In early adulthood (aged 18–29)
Starting (higher) education	11.9	**21.2**
Completing (higher) education	12.4	**24.0**
Marriage	9.9	11.5
Starting to live with a partner	9.6	**13.3**
Divorce/separation	0.6	0.7
Leaving the parental home	11.8	**20.3**
Birth of a child	16.2	16.0
Starting employment	23.9	**31.1**
Leaving the job	6.1	6.4
Changing employment	12.4	13.2

HDRI

Volume of migration intentions in population aged 18–40 in Hungary, 2013

Total sample

Planners

Not having migration plans, 67.3%

Having migration plans 32.7%

Having serious plans **35.5%**

Having 'weak' plans **64.5%**

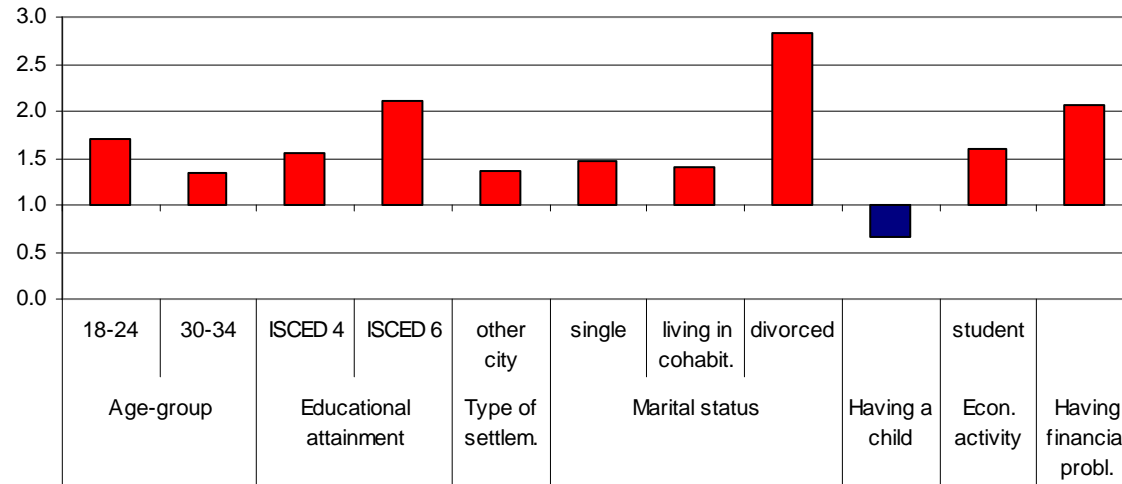= **11.6%** of total sample,

(**370.000** people aged 18–40)

HDRI

The determinants of having migration plans in population aged 18–40 in Hungary (odds ratios)

Basic model (Model 0): gender, age-group, educational level and type of settlement

Model 1: Model 0 + marital status, having a child, labour market status, perception of own livelihood situation
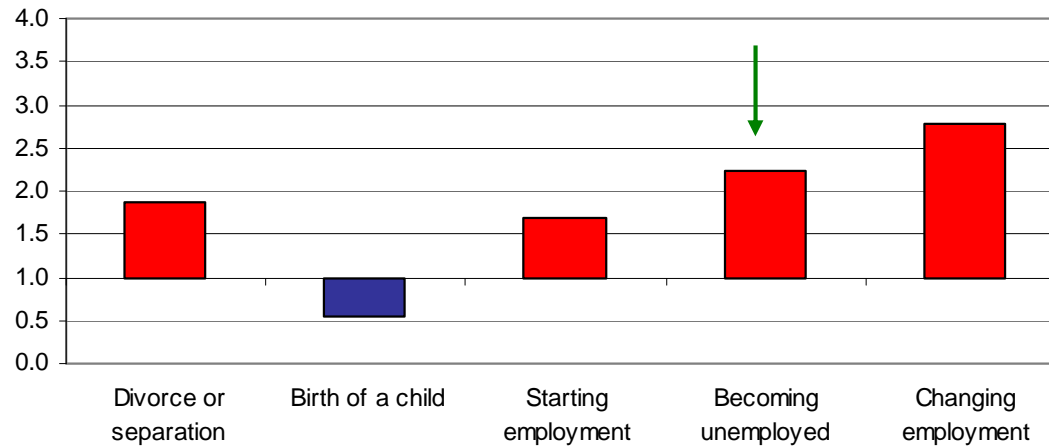
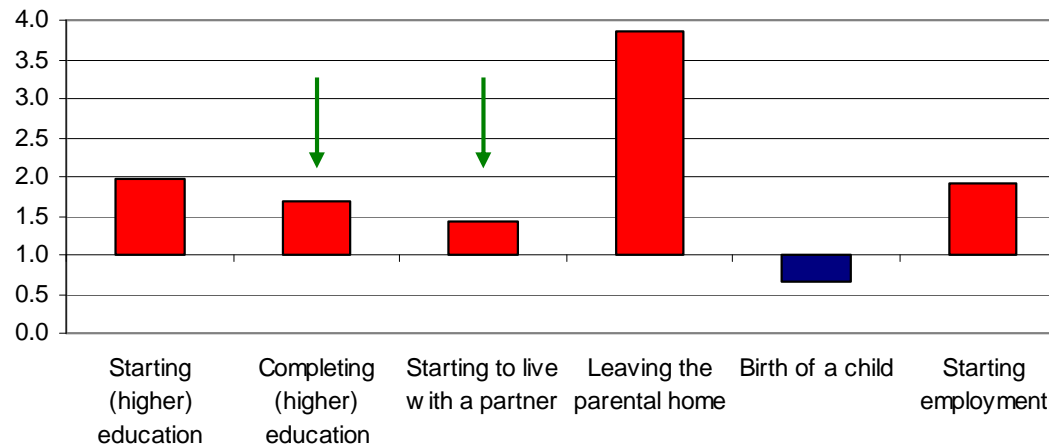**Model 2**: Model 1 + command of foreign language, previous migration experience, network capital
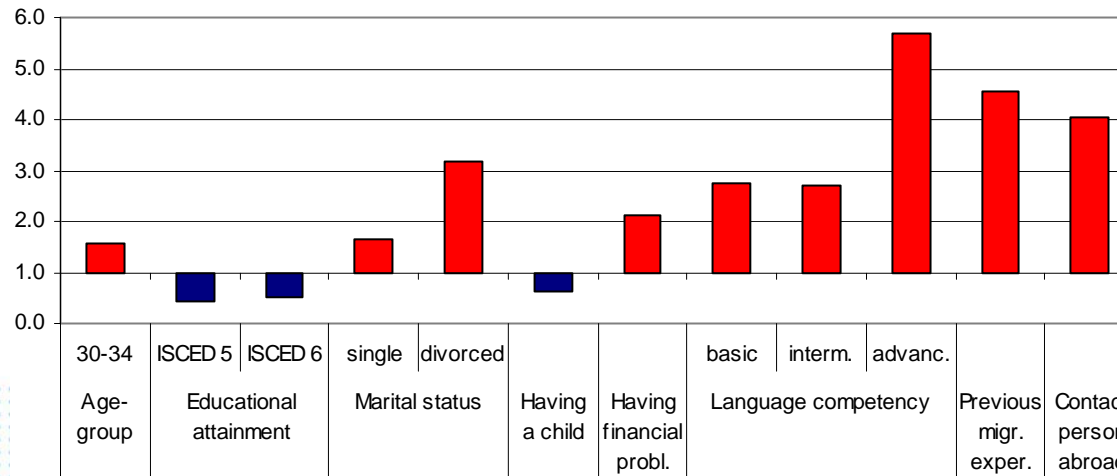
Model 1

Model 2

The impact of life-course events on the probability of having migration plans (odds ratios)

Model 3: Model 0 + *former life-course events* (in the past three years)

Model 4: Model 0 + *anticipated life-course events* (in the next three years)

'Dreamers' vs. 'serious planners' – descriptive analysis

'Dreamers':

- younger

- less educated

- are married (or live with a partner) and have a child

- students and unskilled workers

'Serious planners':

- live in the capital

- are unmarried or divorced

- skilled workers or unemployed

- have financial problems

- have better health condition

- have more experience abroad, more network capital abroad
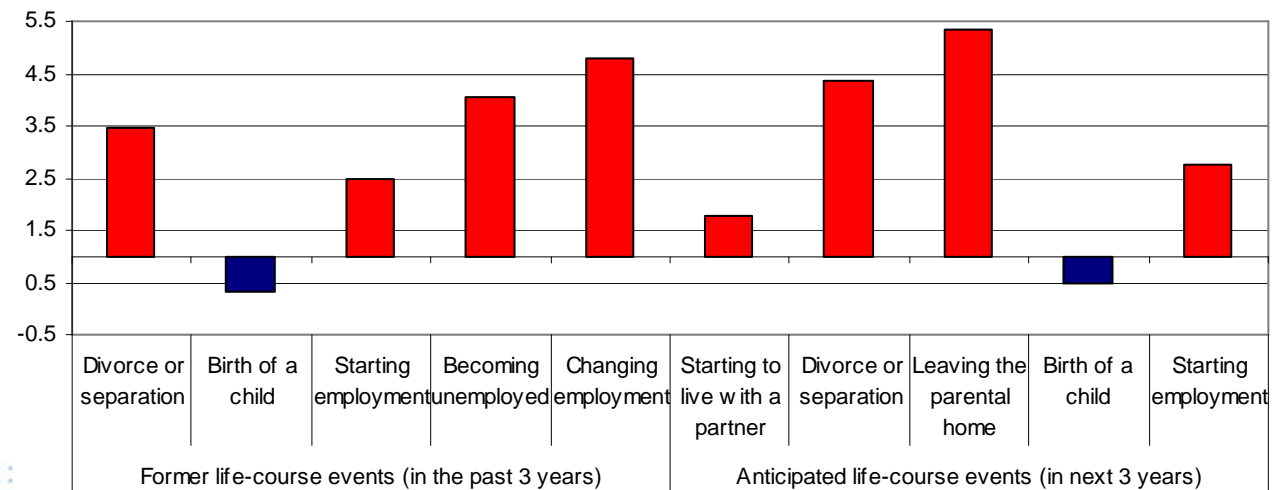
- less satisfied

The impact of life-course events separately on being a '*dreamer'* and being a '*serious planner'* (odds ratios)

Model 5: Model 0 + *former* and *anticipated life-course events* – for being a *'dreamer'* vs. having not plans
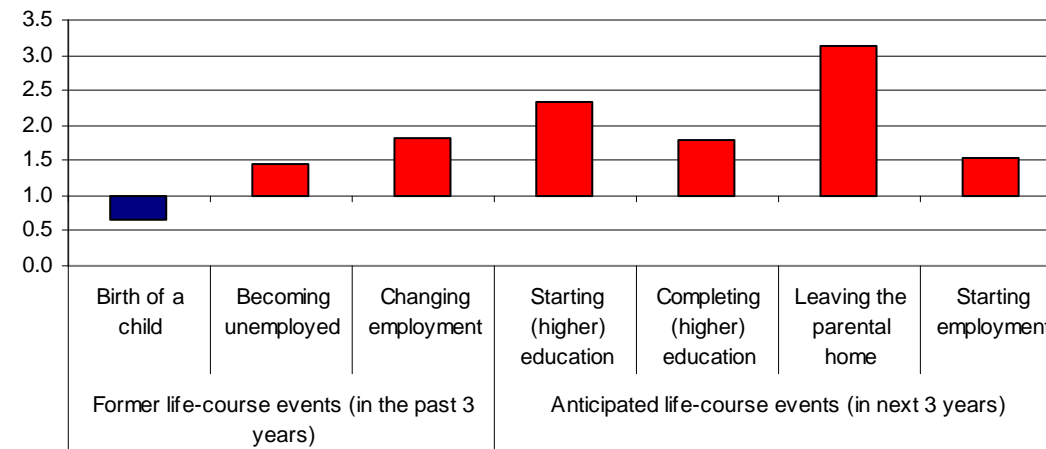
Model 6: Model 0 + *former* and *anticipated life-course events* – for being a *'serious planner'* vs. having not plans

HDRI

Conclusions

- Many life-course events – both former and anticipated – have significant impact on the migration decision process.

- The influence of life-course events is higher in the case of '*serious planners*' than in the case of '*dreamers*'.

- The strongest predictors of serious planning of migration are: *former divorce or separation* and *events linked to the employment*, as well as the *anticipation of divorce or separation*, *leaving the parental home* and *starting employment*.

HDRI

Thank you for your attention!

Contact information:
godri@demografia.hu
feleky@demografia.hu

HDRI