

Intimate partner violence against women in European states. A concentration analysis approach

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Abstract. Although the level of education, the standard of living and last but not least the attention paid to the female population are increasing in European countries intimate partner violence against women continues to be a negative phenomenon with implications not only for women but also for future generations. Among the main types of violence encountered in European countries are psychological, physical, sexual violence, as well as threats, with psychological consequences in the medium and long term and, much more seriously, with consequences which women life is in danger. In this context, the paper analyses the similarities and differences between European countries regarding shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence and by main consequences.

Keywords: *intimate partner violence, violence against women, type of violences, consequences of violence, concentration analysis, Lorenz curve, Gini coefficient*

JEL Classification: C19, D19, J12, K36

Introduction

Violence against women is a violation of women's fundamental rights, affecting one in three women in the world, at all stages of their lives (Manasi, 2022), but which, although particularly important, cannot be easily prevented. Within this, intimate partner violence against women is a scourge that manifests itself in various aspects: physical, psychological, sexual or social with multiple consequences on women's health (Meseguer-Santamaría et al., 2021) and with direct consequences on national social and economic systems (Benocci, 2025).

Psychological and emotional violence is a form of violence that most women suffer within families, manifested most often through insults, shouting and threats (Darina, 2016). Also, psychological and emotional forms of violence often represent an important risk factor for other forms of intimate partner violence (Lausi et al., 2021). On the other hand, starting from the observation that although intimate partner violence against women is a complex and ubiquitous global phenomenon, Crapolichchio et al. (2023) considered that there was a relative lack of investigations on the negative consequences of psychological violence, highlighting that the association between psychological violence and depressive symptoms is moderated by perceived levels of positivity.

Another form of intimate partner violence against women, sometimes particularly serious, is physical violence. Several studies have highlighted the existence of a correlation between it and lower levels of education (Mosiño, 2025), poor economic situation, low income (Zaida et al., 2018; Amare et al., 2024). On the other hand, in a study on the dependence between the economic cycle and physical violence against women, Bhalota et al. (2018) highlighted that a one percent increase in the unemployment rate

among men increases the incidence of physical violence against women by 0.50 percentage points, while a one percent increase in the unemployment rate among women, conditioned by unemployment rates among men, causes a decrease in the probability of victimization by 0.52 percentage points.

In addition to physical violence, sexual violence is the most common type of violence (Selda, 2016), with a strong impact on women and the social climate, its reduction and eradication implying reconsideration of the hierarchical relationship between men and women and the effective assurance of gender equality, in countries with greater gender equality its incidence being lower (Belén et al., 2018).

Intimate partner violence against women has serious consequences on women's psychological and physical health, some of the most common involving mood disorders and stress with long-term side effects, such as impaired decision-making and cognitive function (Lausi et al., 2023). These are joined by consequences which women's life was in danger, among which the seriousness of the consequences of sexual violence (unbearable feeling of secrecy, threat and humiliation, constant fear and insecurity, physical and mental health problems, suicidal tendencies) must be highlighted, extremely negative in the long term due to the interconnection between body, mind and soul (Sigurdardottir & Halldorsdottir, 2021).

Taking these aspects into account, the paper analyses the similarities and disparities between EU Member States regarding the intensity and consequences of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) through the prism of shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence and by main consequences.

1. Research methodology

In order to achieve the research objective, highlighting the similarities and disparities between EU Member States regarding IPVAW, we started from the analysis of the data series results from the EU survey on gender-based violence against women available in the Eurostat Database (EUDB, 2026), respectively: Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence (IPVTV, 2025) and Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner and consequences of violence (IPVCC, 2025). The identifiers and meanings of the variables included in the analyses are presented in table 1.

Table 1. The identifiers and meanings of the variables used in the analysis

Variable	Signification	Units
SWHEV	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner	%
SWPHLV	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced psychological violence by an intimate partner	%
SWPHYV	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner	%
SWSXV	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner	%
SWTHR	share of ever-partnered women who were victims of treats by an intimate partner	%
SWHIPC	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced physical injury or psychological consequences by an intimate partner	%
SWHLDC	share of ever-partnered women who have experienced consequences which her life was in danger	%

To highlight and analyses the disparities and similarities between EU member states, as well as to determine their concentration in terms of IVPAAW through the seven indicators, both descriptive methods and graphical procedures (Lorenz Curve) and numerical evaluations (Jaba, 2002) were used.

The Lorenz Curve was obtained starting from vectors of the form $W = [w_i]_{i=1,27}$ sorted in ascending order ($w_i \leq w_{i+1}$), by generating the points cloud $(x_i, y_i)_{i=0,27}$ (Zaharia & Gogonea, 2019):

$$(x_i, y_i) = \begin{cases} (x = 0, y = 0), & i = 0 \\ (x_i = \frac{i}{27}, y_i = \frac{S_i}{S_n}), & S_i = \sum_{j=1}^i w_j, \quad i = \overline{1,27} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

For the numerical evaluation of the degrees of concentration, the Gini Coefficient (G), Shannon Entropy (S) and Normalized Entropy (S₀) were used:

$$G = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n g_i^2}, \quad g_i = \frac{x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}, \quad G \in \left[\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}}, 1 \right] \quad (2)$$

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i \cdot \ln \frac{1}{g_i}, \quad S = [1, \ln n]; \quad S_0 = \frac{S}{\ln n}, \quad S_0 \in [0, 1] \quad (3)$$

In conditions where $n=27$, $G \in [0,1924, 1]$, $S \in [1, 3,2958]$. The more the values of the indicators G, and S tend towards 1, and S₀ towards 0, the higher the concentration degree.

2. Results and Discussion

The analyses carried out on the similarities and disparities between EU Member States regarding intimate partner violence against women focused on three aspects: (1) an overall analysis of the share of women who experienced violence by intimate partner, (2) particularities of the share of women who experienced violence by intimate partner by types of violence, (3) consequences of intimate partner violence against women.

2.1. The share of women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner

According to the data available in the Eurostat Database, the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV), at the base year level, recorded values between 19.6%, the value recorded in Poland, and 54.6%, the value recorded in Hungary. Taking as a reference the estimated EU-average of SWHEV (31.8%), values higher than this were recorded in 15 countries (Figure 1), and lower values in only 12 countries.

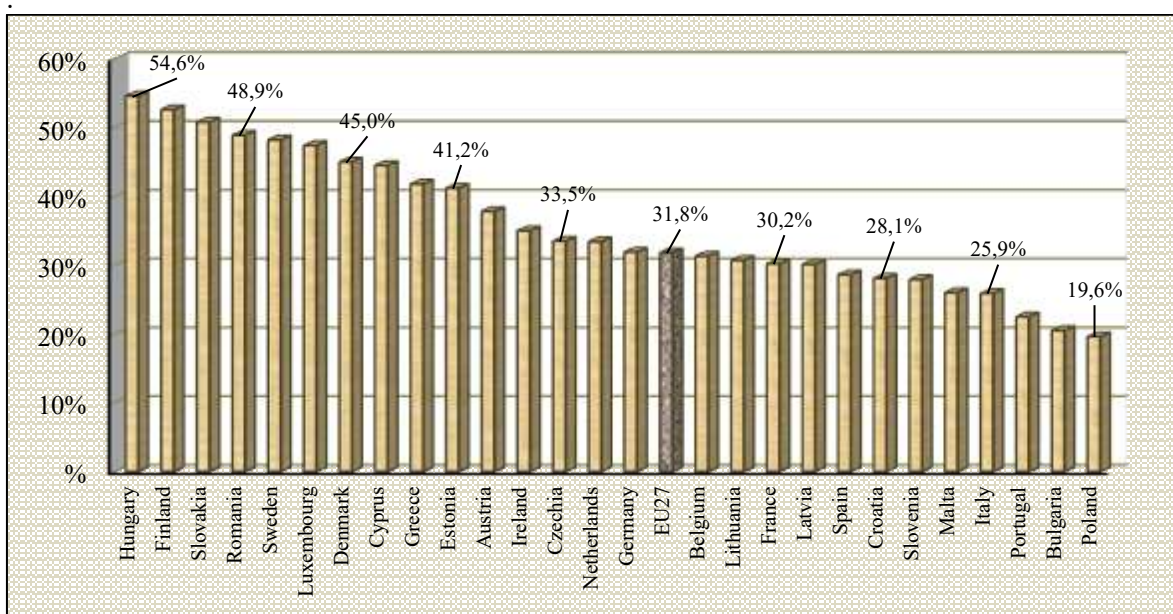


Figure 1. Ranking of EU member states according to SWHEV values. Source: prepared by the author

Given that the amplitude of the value interval is very large (35.0 percentage points), the values of the concentration coefficients Gini Coefficient ($G=0.1999$), Shannon Entropy ($S=3.2958$) and Normalized Entropy ($S_0=0.9881$) were determined. Both their values and the Lorenz curve (Figure 2) do not highlight a high degree of concentration.

To verify this finding, as well as for an image of the geographical distribution of SWHEV values (Figure 3), starting from the extreme values of SWHEV, five intervals of equal amplitudes (7 percentage points) were determined, entitled Minimal (between 19.6% and 26.6%), Low (between 26.6% and 33.6%), Middle (between 33.6% and 40.6%), High (between 40.6% and 47.6%) and Maximal (between 47.6% and 54.6%).

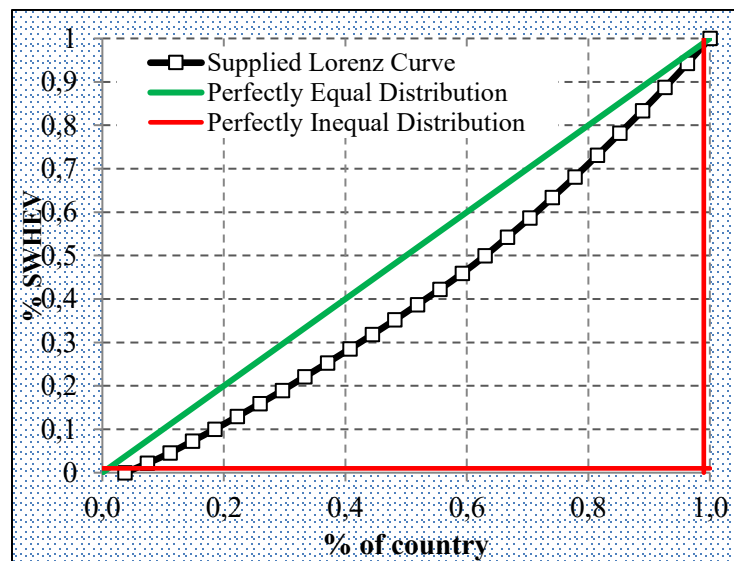


Figure 2 Lorenz curve of SWHEV Source: prepared by the author

The Minimal range (19.6% - 26.6%) includes five countries (Poland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy and Malta), with the lowest SWHEV value (19.6%) recorded in Poland and the highest (20.0%) in Malta.

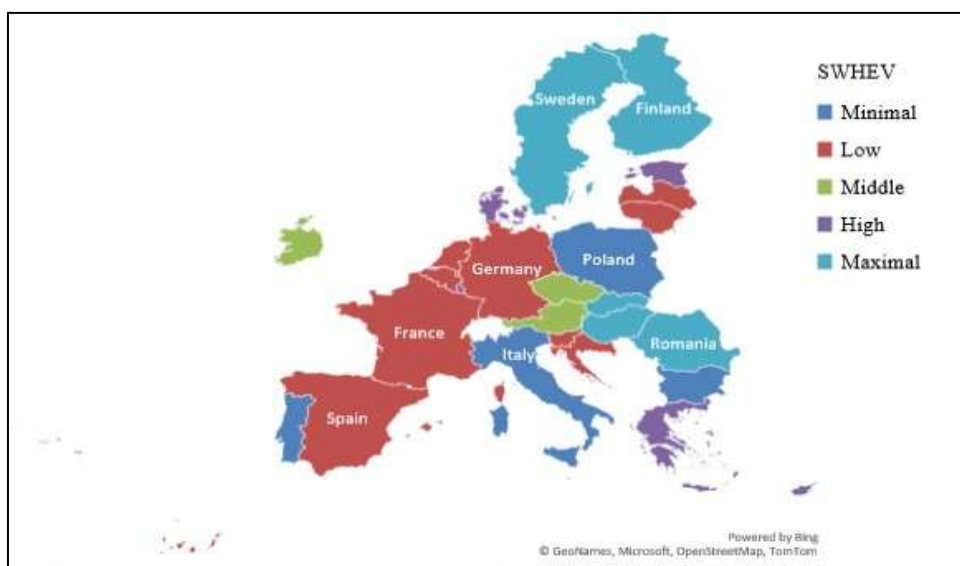


Figure 3 Geographic distribution of SWHEV value ranges. Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

The Low range (26.6% - 33.6%) includes nine countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Spain, Latvia, France, Lithuania, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands), with the lowest value (27.9%) recorded in Slovenia and the highest (33.4%) in the Netherlands.

The Middle range (33.6% - 40.6%) includes three countries (Czechia, Ireland and Austria), with the lowest value (35.6%) recorded in Czechia and the highest (37.8%) in Austria.

The High range (40.6% - 47.6%) includes five countries (Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Denmark and Luxembourg), with the lowest value (41.2%) recorded in Estonia and the highest (47.4%) in Luxembourg.

Finally, the Maximal range (47.6% - 54.6%) also includes five countries (Sweden, Romania, Slovakia, Finland and Hungary), the lowest value (48.2%) being recorded in Sweden and the highest (54.6%) in Hungary.

Considering that, of the five equidistant ranges, three (Minimal, High and Maximal) include five countries each, respectively 18.52% of the 27 EU countries, and the Middle range included only 3 countries (11.11% of the total), while the Low range includes 9 countries (33.33% of the total), it results that there is a concentration of SWHEV values in this range.

2.2. Specifications by types of violence

According to Law no. 217/2003 art. 4 (LPCVD, 2020), domestic violence, implicitly violence against women, manifests itself in a wide range of forms, including verbal, psychological, physical, sexual, economic, social, spiritual and, last but not least, cyber violence. Of these, based on the data series Ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence (IPVTV, 2025) the structure of the European Union countries was analysed in terms of the share of women victims of psychological violence (SWPHLV), of physical violence (SWPHYV), of sexual violence (SWSXV) and victims of treats (SWTHR).V).

In terms of the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced psychological violence by intimate partner (SWPHLV), the highest value of 52.1% was recorded in Hungary (Figure 4) and the lowest, 19.1%, in Poland.

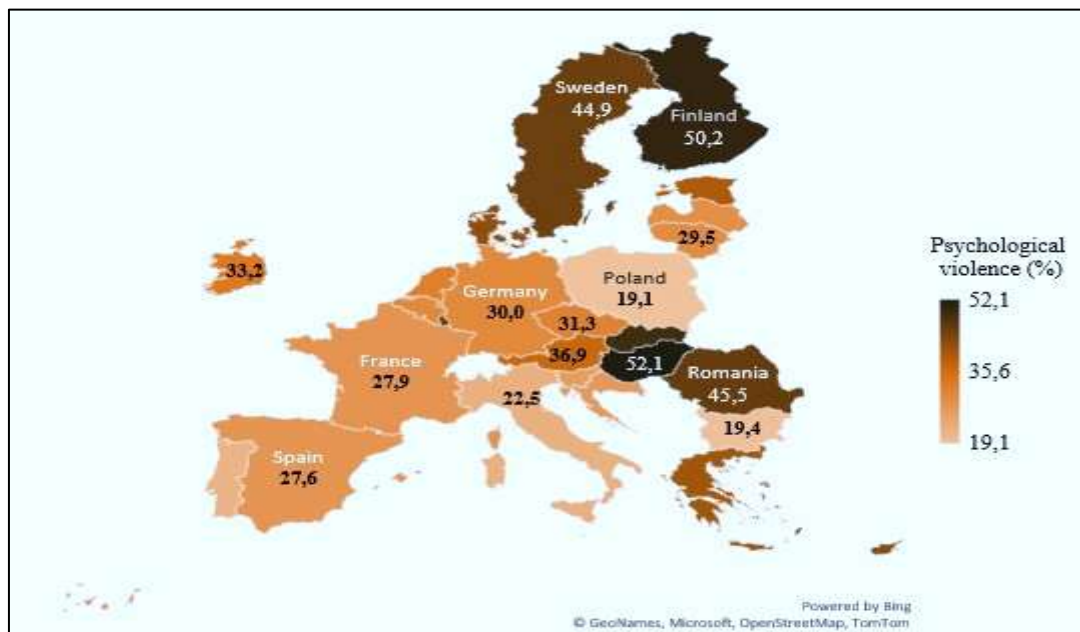


Figure 4. SWPHLV values in EU member states
Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

The Lorenz curve (Figure 5), as well as the values of the concentration coefficients Gini Coefficient ($G=0.2000$), Shannon Entropy ($S=3.2561$) and Normalized Entropy ($S_0=0.9879$), do not highlight a very high degree of concentration in the case of SWPHLV either, being similar to that encountered in the case of SWHEV.

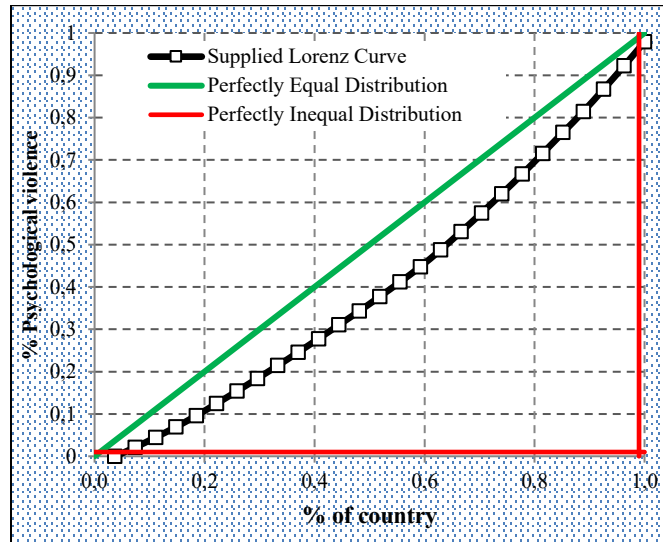


Figure 5. Lorenz curve of SWPHLV Source: prepared by the author

Some differences are highlighted by interval groups, both in terms of SWPHLV values and the number of countries included in them (Figure 6). Thus, in the case of SWPHLV, ten countries are included in the Low interval (25.7% - 32.3%), compared to nine in the case of SWHEV, by Czechia moving from the Middle interval to Low, in the case of SWPHLV the Middle interval (32.3% - 38.9%) including only two countries (Ireland and Austria). There were also changes in the High and Maximal intervals. In the case of SWPHLV, seven countries are included in the High interval (38.9% - 45.5%), compared to five countries in the case of SWHEV, by Sweden and Romania moving from the Maximal interval to High, the Maximal interval (45.5% - 52.1%) including in the case of SWPHLV only three countries (Slovakia, Finland and Hungary). On the other hand, the Minimal range (19.1% - 25.7%) includes the same five countries and in the same order as in the case of SWHEV.

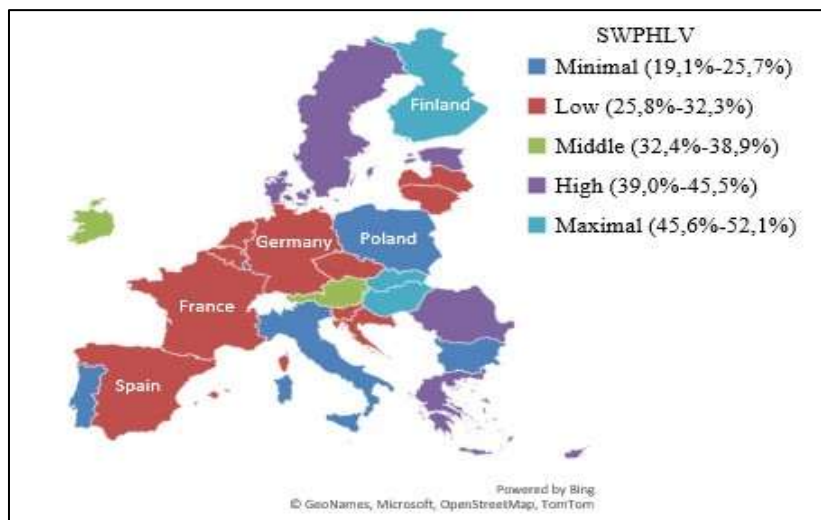


Figure 6. Geographical distribution of SWPHLV by value intervals Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

Taking into account the fact that, in the case of SWPHLV, the Low interval includes 37.04% of EU countries, and that the Minimal and Low intervals include 55.56% of EU countries, it can be concluded that there is a significant concentration of them in the area of low SWPHLV values, with countries with Maximal values representing only 11.11% of the total.

In terms of the shares of women who have experienced physical, threats or sexual violence, by an intimate partner, taken as a whole, the distribution of EU member states is relatively similar (Figure 7) in the sense that the highest values are recorded in Hungary (41.1%) and Romania (37.0%), and the lowest in Bulgaria (9.3%), Portugal (10.3%) and Poland (11.2%).

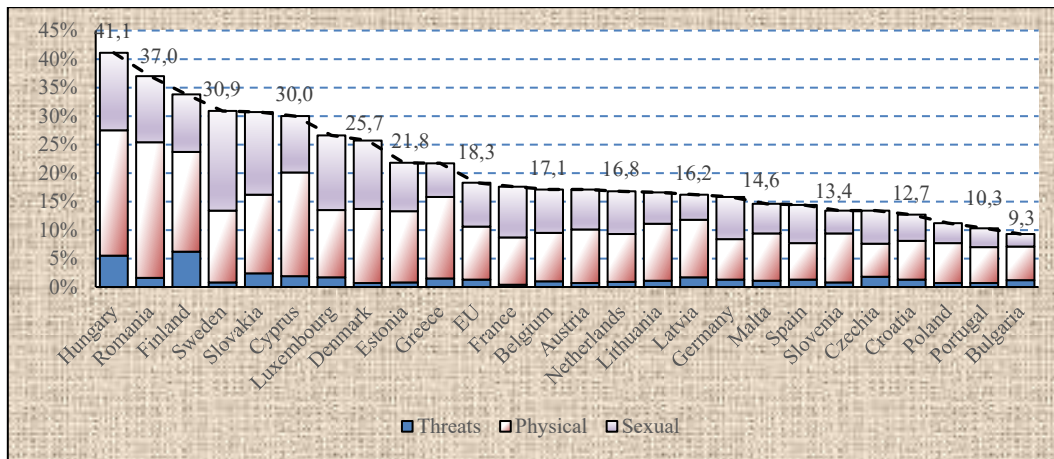


Figure 7. Ranking of EU states by shares of physical, threats or sexual violence
Source: prepared by the author

However, when analysed separately, the shares of the three types of violence included here, namely physical violence (SWPHYV), sexual violence (SWSEX) and treats (SWTHR), lead to significantly different rankings of countries. The analyses do not include Italy, for which no data were available on the shares of each of the three types of violence.

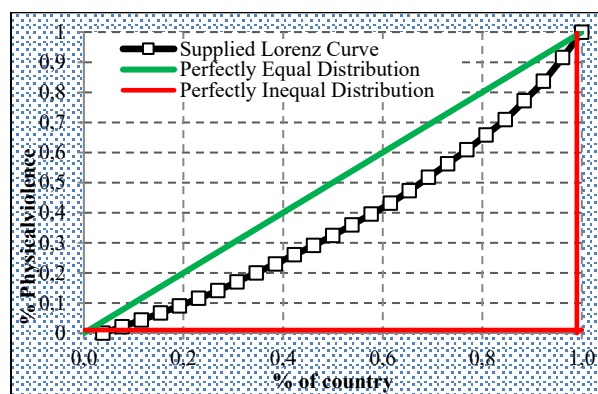


Figure 8. Lorenz curve of SWPHYV Source: prepared by the author

Thus, in terms of the share of women who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner (SWPHYV), Romania (23.8%) is in first place, with 14.5 percentage points above the EU average, followed by Hungary (22.0%) and Cyprus (18.2%), with 12.7 and 8.9 percentage points above the EU average, while, at the opposite pole, the lowest values were recorded in Czechia (5.8%) and Bulgaria (5.9%), with 3.5 and 3.4 percentage points below the EU average. PWPHYV values around the EU level (9.3%) were recorded in Ireland (9.8%), Austria (9.4%), Slovenia (8.6%), Belgium (8.5%), the Netherlands (8.4%), as well as France and Malta, with 8.3% each.

In the case of SWPHYV the degree of concentration is higher than in the case of SWPHLV, a fact highlighted by the Lorenz curve (Figure 8) and by the values of the concentration coefficients Gini Coefficient ($G=0.2137$), Shannon Entropy ($S=3.1731$) Normalized Entropy ($S_0=0.9739$).

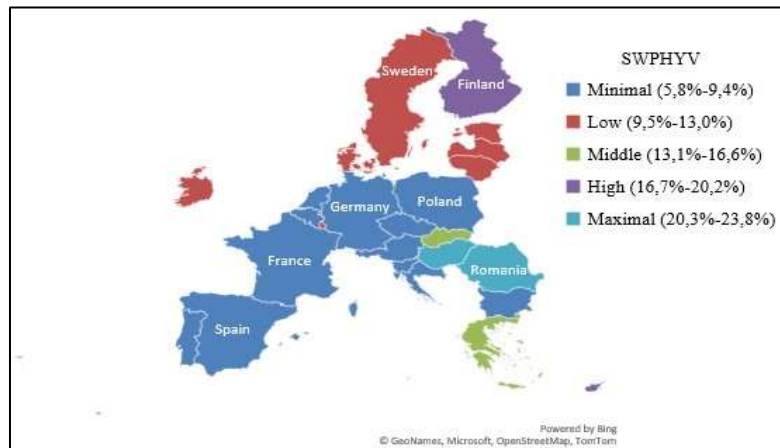


Figure 9. Geographic distribution of SWPHYV values
Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

This fact is also underlined by the geographical distribution of the twenty-six countries in the five value ranges (Figure 9). From this point of view, the Minimal range is differentiated, which includes 13 countries (50.0% of the total), while the Middle, High and Maximal ranges include only two countries each, respectively Slovakia and Greece, in the Middle range, Finland and Cyprus, in the High range, and Hungary and Romania, in the Maximal range. In terms of the share of women who have experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner (SWSXV), Sweden was in first place with a share of 17.5% (9.8 percentage points above the EU average), followed by Slovakia with a share of 14.5% (6.8 percentage points above the EU average). The lowest SWSXV values were recorded in Bulgaria (2.2%) and Portugal (3.3%) with 5.5 and 4.4 percentage points below the EU average. SWSXV values around the EU level (7.7%) were recorded in Estonia (8.5%), Austria (9.4%), Belgium (7.6%), the Netherlands (7.5%), Germany (7.4%) and Austria (7.0%).

Although the geographical distribution of SWSXV values (Figure 10) differs from that of SWPHYV values, the degree of concentration is also higher. Thus, while in the case of SWPHYV, the Gini Coefficient was $G_{SWPHYV}=0.2137$, in the case of SWSXV it is $G_{SWSXV}=0.2168$. The differences between the two consist in the fact that in the case of SWSXV most countries are included in the Low range, compared to the Minimal range in the case of SWPHYV.

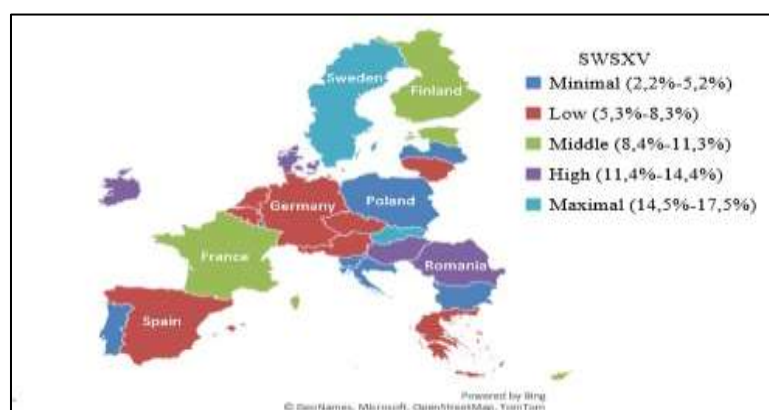


Figure 10. Geographic distribution of SWSXV values
Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

Regarding the share of women who were victims of threats by an intimate partner (SWTHR), the values are much lower than in the cases of physical violence and sexual violence. The highest values of SWTHR were recorded in Finland, of 6.2% (4.9 percentage points above the EU average) and Hungary, of 5.5% (4.2 percentage points above the EU average), and around the SWTHR value at EU level (1.3%) were Romania (1.6%), Greece (1.5%), as well as Germany, Spain and Croatia with shares of 1.3% each. It is worth noting that, in the case of SWTHR, in ten countries (Netherlands, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Poland, Portugal, France, Ireland and Slovenia) values below 1% were recorded.

2.3. Consequences of intimate partner violence against women

Depending on the available data, two categories of consequences of violence suffered by women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner were analysed: physical injury or psychological consequences (SWHIPC) and consequences which women life was in danger (SWHLDC).

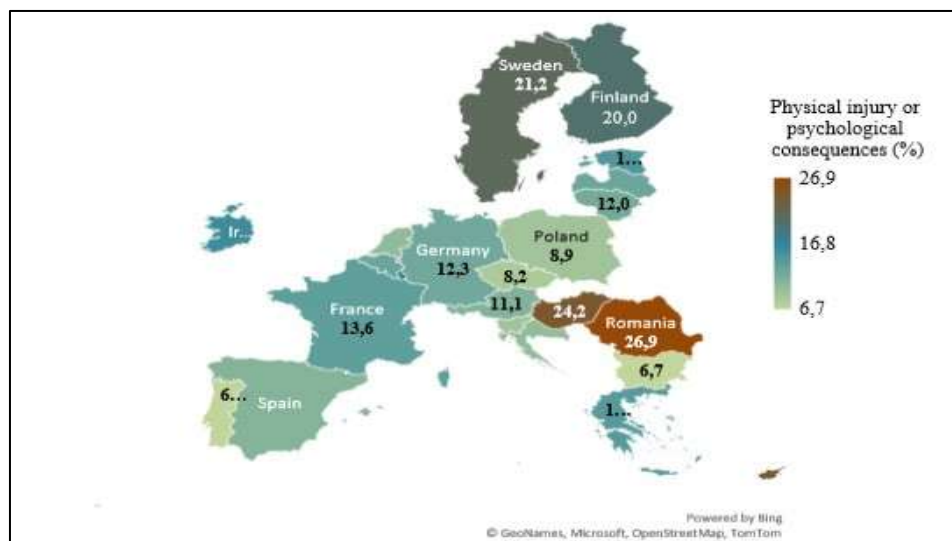


Figure 11. Geographic distribution of SWHIPC values.

Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

Given that, out of the twenty-seven EU countries, only twenty-four were included in the analysis, with no data available for Denmark, Italy and Slovakia, only three value ranges Low, Middle and High were used to analyse the concentration of SWHIPC and SWHLDC values.

In terms of the shares of women who have experienced physical injury or psychological consequences by an intimate partner (SWHIPC), the differences between the values recorded at the country level are significant, covering a range of values between 6.7%, a value recorded in Bulgaria, and 26.9%, a value recorded in Romania (Figure 11).

The group of countries with high SWHIPC values (High) included four countries (Figure 12), with SWHIPC values between 21.2%, a value recorded in Sweden, and 26.9%, a value recorded in Romania. Compared to estimated EU-averages (13.0%), in the case of the countries in this group, the SWHIPC values are higher than this with values ranging between 8.2 percentage points in Sweden and 13.9 percentage points in Romania.

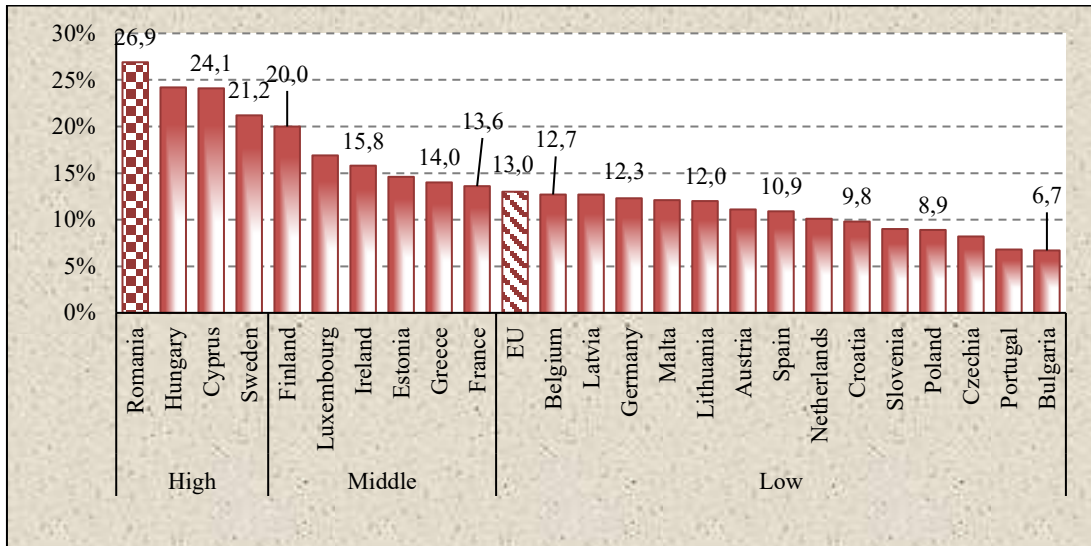


Figure 12. Ranking of countries according to SWHIPC values. Source: prepared by the author

The group of countries with middle values of SWHIPC (Middle) included six countries, with the highest SWHIPC values recorded in Finland (20.0%) and Luxembourg (16.9%), and the lowest in Greece (14.0%) and France (13.6%). In contrast to the countries in the High group, although five of the Middle group have values above the estimated EU-averages, the differences from them are much smaller, 3.9 and 2.8 percentage points in Luxembourg and Ireland, and below 2 percentage points in Estonia, Greece and France.

The third group (Low) included fourteen countries, with the highest SWHIPC values recorded in Belgium and Latvia (12.7%), as well as in Germany (12.3%) and Malta (12.1%), and the lowest in Bulgaria (6.7%) and Portugal (6.8%). This group is also characterized by the fact that it includes only countries with SWHIPC values lower than estimated EU-averages, ranging from -0.3 percentage points in Belgium and Latvia to -6.3 percentage points in Bulgaria.

In terms of concentration, the values of the Gini Coefficient ($G=0.2195$), Shannon Entropy ($S=3.1048$), and the Lorenz curve (Figure 13) highlight a situation similar to SWPHYV.

In the case of SWHIPC, the interval that includes the largest number of countries is Low, the fourteen countries included in it representing 58.33% of the countries included in the analysis, while the High interval includes only four countries (16.67%).

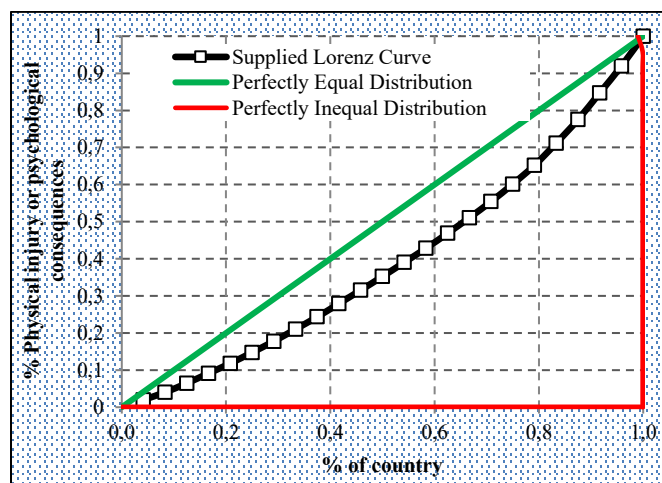


Figure 13. Lorenz curve of SWHIPC Source: prepared by the author

The second category of consequences is those in which women's life was in danger (SWHLDC). From this point of view, among the twenty-four countries included in the analysis, the lowest value of SWHLDC, of 2.4%, was recorded in Bulgaria, and the highest, of 16.1%, was recorded in Romania (Figure 14).

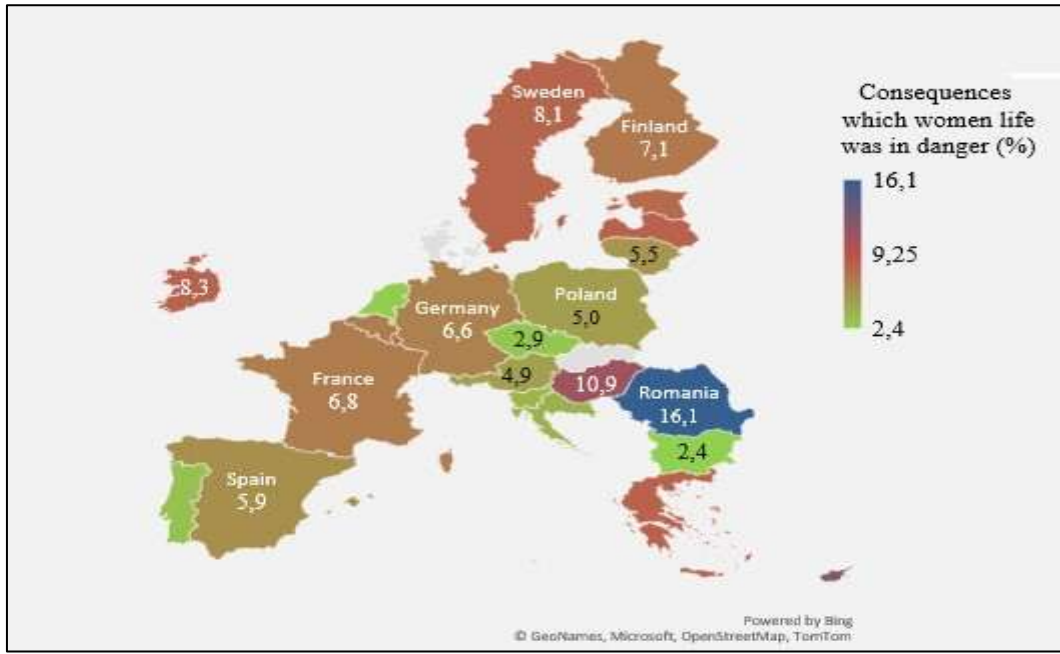


Figure 14. Geographic distribution of SWHLDC values
Source: prepared by the author and powered by Bing

By value range, the range of countries with high SWHLDC values (High) included two countries (Figure 15), Cyprus (12.3%) and Romania (16.1%). Compared to the estimated EU-averages (6.6%), in the case of countries in this group, SWHLDC values are higher than this by 9.5 percentage points in Romania and 5.7 percentage points in Cyprus.

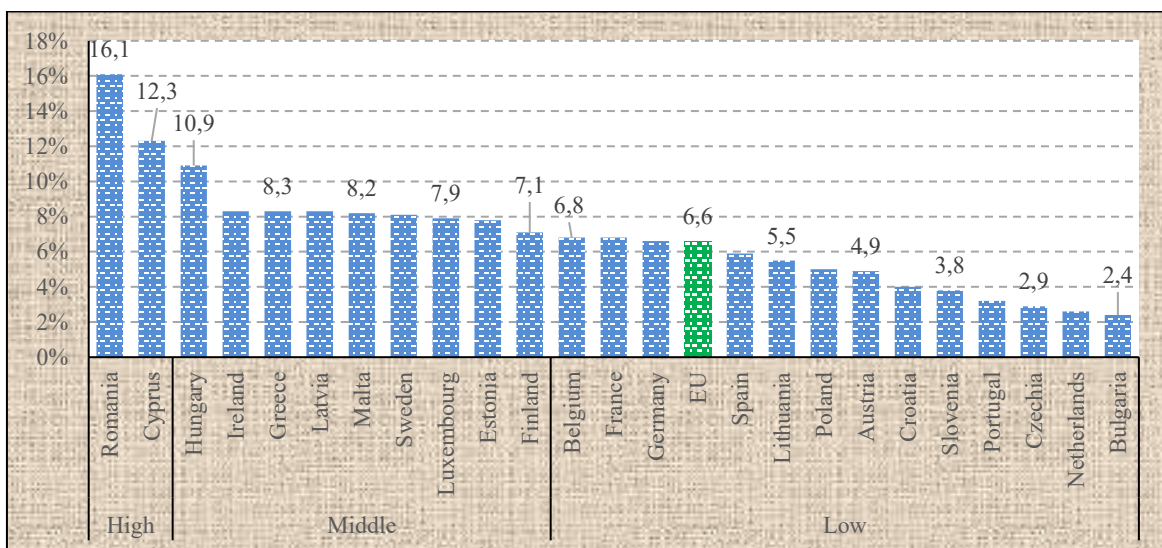


Figure 15. Ranking of states according to SWHLDC values. Source: prepared by the author

The group of countries with middle values of SWHLDC (Middle) included nine countries, the highest values of SWHLDC being recorded in Hungary (10.9%), Ireland, Greece and Latvia (each 8.3%), and the lowest in Finland (7.1%) and Estonia (7.8%). Compared to the estimated EU-averages of SWHLDC, the countries in this group record higher values ranging from 0.5 percentage points in Finland to 4.5 percentage points in Hungary.

The third group (Low) included thirteen countries, the highest values of SWHLDC being recorded in Belgium and France (each 6.8%), and the lowest in Bulgaria (2.4%), Netherlands (2.6%) and the Czechia (2.9%). This group is also characterized by the fact that it includes both countries with SWHLDC values higher than the estimated EU-averages (6.6%), but by only 0.2 percentage points, and countries with SWHLDC values lower than the estimated EU-averages, ranging from -0.7 percentage points in Spain to -4.2 percentage points in Bulgaria.

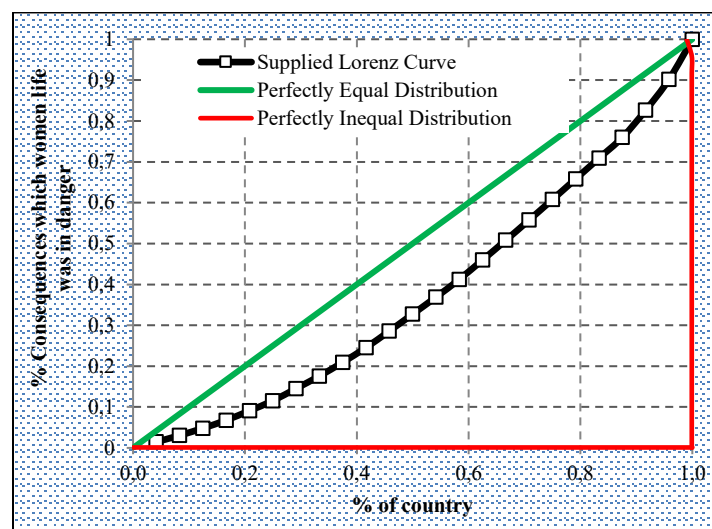


Figure 16. Lorenz curve of SWHLDC values. Source: prepared by the author

In terms of the degree of concentration, the values of the concentration coefficients, Gini Coefficient ($G=0.2248$), Shannon Entropy ($S=3.0759$) and Normalized Entropy ($S_0=0.9679$), as well as the Lorenz curve (Figure 16) highlight a higher degree of concentration of SWHLDC than of SWPICV, but the interval that includes the largest number of countries is also Low, the thirteen countries included in it representing 54.17% of the countries included in the analysis, while the High interval includes only two countries (9.33%).

3. Conclusions

Although the disparities between EU member states in terms of shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence and by consequences of violence are significant, their degrees of concentration are not high, the lowest value of the Gini Coefficient, of 0.2248, in the case of share of ever-partnered women who have experienced consequences which her life was in danger, and the lowest, of 0.20, in the case of share of ever-partnered women who have experienced psychological violence by an intimate partner.

The shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner, by type of violence, differ significantly both from one type of violence to another and between the countries included in the analysis. Thus, the highest values of shares of ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner (SWHEV) were recorded in the case of psychological violence (SWPHLV), of 52.1% (Hungary), with an amplitude of values of 33.0 percentage points, and the lowest values of SWHEV were recorded in the case of sexual violence (SWSXV), of 17.5% (Sweden), with an amplitude of values of 15.3 percentage points.

By country group, the highest SWHEV values were recorded in Hungary, Finland and Slovakia, in the case of SWPHLV, Romania and Hungary, in the case of SWPHYV, as well as Sweden and Slovakia, in the case of SWSXV. At the opposite pole, low SWHEV values were recorded in Bulgaria, Portugal and Poland, in the case of SWPHLV and SWSXV, as well as in Czechia, Bulgaria and Portugal, in the case of SWPHYV.

In terms of the consequences of intimate partner violence against women, the most frequent were physical injury or psychological consequences (SWHIPC), the difference between the highest value of SWHIPC, of 26.9% (Romania) and the lowest, of 6.7% (Bulgaria), was 20.2 percentage points. As for the second category of consequences analysed, those in which women's life was in danger, both the extreme values of SWHLDV and the range between them were lower than in the case of SWHIPC. By group of countries, the highest shares of the consequences of intimate partner violence against women were recorded in Romania, Hungary and Cyprus, and the lowest in Bulgaria, Portugal and Czechia.

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