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## Pathways to stepfamily formation in Europe Results from the FFS

Alexia Frnkranz-Prskawetz  
Andres Vikat  
Dimitar Philipov  
Henriette Engelhardt

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**Abstract**

Increasing proportions of couples are making childbearing decisions in stepfamilies but there has been no general comparative picture across European countries on stepfamily formation. The present paper aims to fill this gap and provides a comparison of European countries using macro-level indicators that describe union formation and dissolution and childbearing. We use the individual-level data files (standard recode files) of Fertility and Family Surveys from 19 European countries. Our results highlight the different pathways to a stepfamily in Europe, and show that in most European countries a considerable proportion of women form a stepfamily in childbearing ages, which needs to be considered in studies of fertility.

**Author's affiliation**[Alexia Frnkranz-Prskawetz](#)

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

[Andres Vikat](#)

UN Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland

[Dimitar Philipov](#)

Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

[Henriette Engelhardt](#)

Otto-Friedrich-Universitt Bamberg, Germany

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