

Violence-Resilience. A question of family burden and risk and protective factors

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FORMATION OF NON-VIOLENT
BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL AND
LEISURE TIME AMONG YOUTHS
FROM VIOLENT FAMILIES
(STAMINA)



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**DG Justice, Freedom and
Security**

Duration: 2009-2011



Places of data collection



Data collection

The quantitative data as random samples were collected in spring 2009 by questionnaire anonymously in four different EU-countries (Austria, Germany, Slovenia and Spain).

	in %	Abs.
Migration		
Without m-background	71.2	3.666
With m-background	28.8	1.483
Sex		
Girls	47.0	2.418
Boys	53.0	2.731
Country		
Germany	55.0	2.832
Austria	14.1	724
Slovenia	14.1	726
Spain	16.8	867
Age, AV: 14.40, SD: 0.934	N= 5.149	

Introduction

- In this paper we build on Loebers et al (2008) work on the necessity to focus on both **protective** and **risk characteristics** for understanding resilience
- Additionally we analyze how different levels of family violence plays into this dynamic.
- We suggest that such an approach could prove to be more useful and reliable for the purposes of prevention and clinical intervention, because this broader scope aims to identify adolescents at highest risk for co-morbid outcomes (Cairns, 1994;Prinstein, 2001).

Family violence

- Exposure to family violence during adolescence is common, and is an established risk factor for the development of depression and violent behaviour in adolescence.
- The main types of family violence that have been linked with depression and violent behaviour include:
 - physical maltreatment by parents and
 - witnessing violence or psychological aggression between parents

Family violence

- ***Witnessing physical partner abuse (during the past twelve months):***

“I noticed one of my parents strongly shoving or pushing the other one about”

“I noticed that one of my parents kicked the other with his/her foot, or punched the other with his/her fist”

- ***Physical abuse by parents (If ever happened..):***

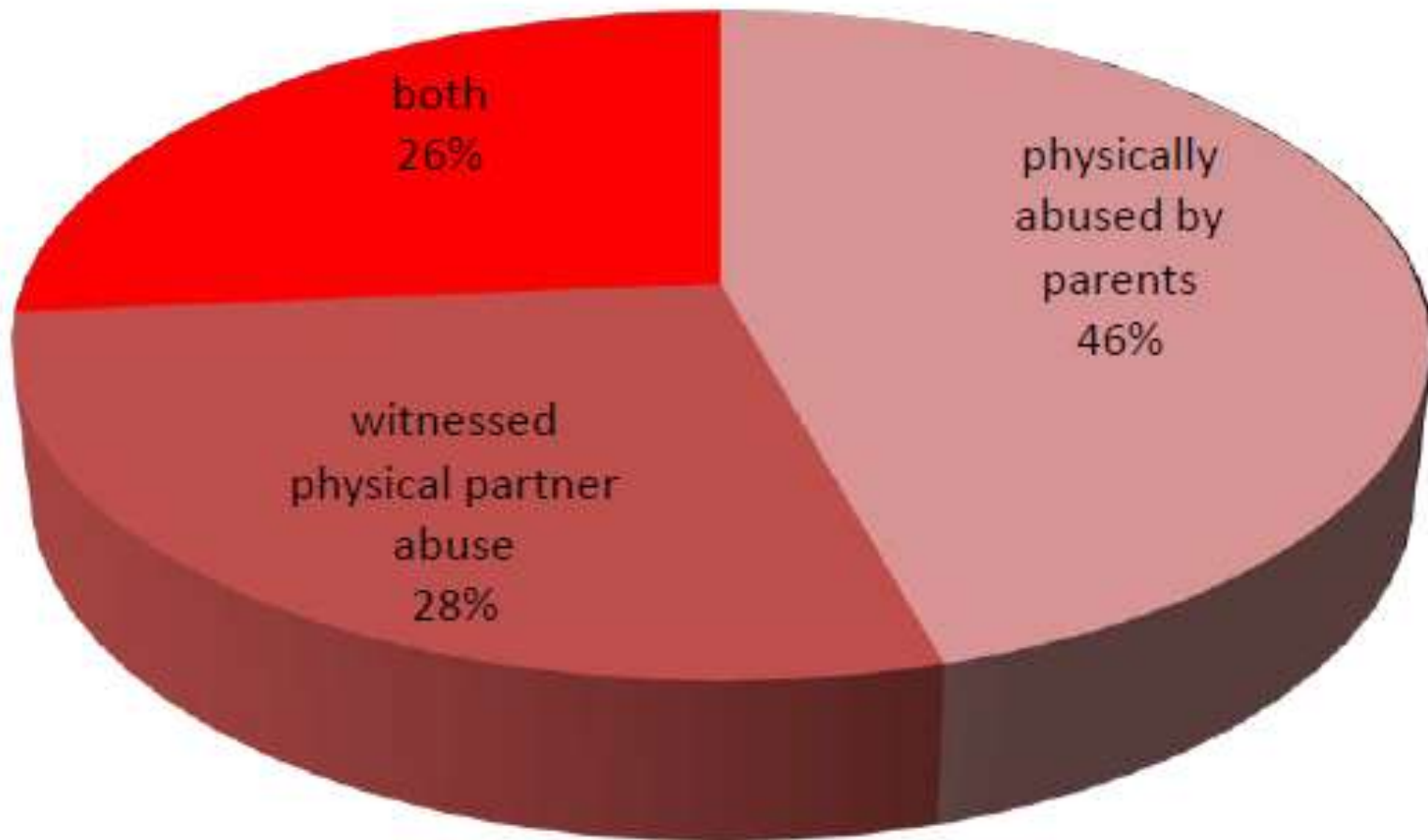
“My parents beat me up so severely that I had bruises or scratches” or

“I was punished in my family with a belt, a stick or a hard object”

Family violence



Family burden





What is violence-resilience?

- Is it simply not using violence despite having experienced violence in the family?
- Or is it more complex: Both the absence of the use of violence (externalizing) and the absence of depression and anxiety (internalizing)?

Handling (family) violence

If we accept the more complex understanding of violence-resilience our focus will be on youth who, despite living in violent families or under certain violent conditions, neither use violence nor experience depression.

- What are supportive factors and resources?
- Which are the risk factors?
- Which is the role of the different levels of family burden?



Identifying the resilient adolescents

- **Resilient:** Students who reported no use of violence at all and who additionally had depression-scores below the middle of the scale depression
- **Non-resilient:** Students who were situated in using violence and/or reporting depression.

Level of family violence in the STAMINA-Burden sample

- We trichotomized the z-standardized score of the family violence (n= 1644) into three almost equal groups
- Low level of family violence n=644,
- Middle level of family violence n=568,
- High level of family violence n=432.

Low level of family violence

	Germany (n= 420)			Austria (n= 71)			Slovenia (n= 68)			Spain (n= 85)		
	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p
Gender	0.344	1	>.05	3.196	1	>.05	0.785	1	>.05	3.849	1	>.05
Migration	0.173	1	>.05	0.037	1	>.05	1.209	1	>.05	2.031	1	>.05
SES (3 categories)	4.304	2	>.05	4.790	2	>.05	9.595	2	<.01	0.880	2	>.05

Middle level of family violence

	Germany (n= 368)			Austria (n= 68)			Slovenia (n= 51)			Spain (n= 81)		
	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p
Gender	0.506	1	>.05	2.875	1	>.05	0.506	1	>.05	2.875	1	>.05
Migration	3.857	1	>.05	0.249	1	>.05	3.857	1	>.05	0.249	1	>.05
SES (3 categories)	2.112	2	>.05	1.649	2	>.05	2.112	2	>.05	1.649	2	>.05

High level of family violence

	Germany (n= 286)			Austria (n= 39)			Slovenia (n= 56)			Spain (n= 51)		
	χ^2	df	P	χ^2	df	P	χ^2	df	p	χ^2	df	p
Gender	0.954	1	>.05	1.414	1	>.05	2.828	1	>.05	2.949	1	>.05
Migration	0.007	1	>.05	1.918	1	>.05	1.494	1	>.05	0.373	1	>.05
SES (3 categories)	1.288	2	>.05	1.493	2	>.05	3.668	2	>.05	1.780	2	>.05



Protective and/or risk-factors?

- Which are the effects of protective and risk factors on the three different levels of family violence?
- Do the characteristics of resilient adolescents depend on the family violence level?

LOW Level

	Low level of family violence (n= 644) Model 1				Low level of family violence (n= 644) Model 2				Low level of family violence (n= 644) Model 3			
	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)
<i>Protective Factors</i>												
Self-Acceptance	-,174	,102	2,874	,841					-,338	,115	8,62**6	,713
Emotional Self-Control	-,158	,104	2,283	,854					-,107	,111	,928	,899
Optimistic Future View	-,709	,108	43,313***	,492					-,499	,118	17,922***	,607
Actions against violence	-,319	,102	9,747**	,727					-,300	,111	7,305**	,741
Parental Supervision	-,413	,107	14,937***	,662					-,187	,120	2,434	,830
Close relation to teachers	,001	,101	,000	1,001					-,237	,119	3,944*	1,268
School climate	-,188	,098	3,704*	,829					-,149	,105	2,015	,862
<i>Risk Factors</i>												
Relational aggr. against girls					,119	,109	1,187	1,126	,028	,115	,060	1,029
Relational aggr. against boys					,258	,122	4,494*	1,294	,281	,130	4,666*	1,324
Inconsistent parenting					,559	,106	27,582***	1,748	,283	,119	5,687*	1,327
Aggression supportive Beliefs					,418	,106	15,533***	1,519	,367	,117	9,855**	1,444
Verbal aggressive teachers					,211	,121	3,027	1,234	,256	,141	3,282	1,291
Alcohol					,358	,111	10,362**	1,430	,339	,120	7,974**	1,404
Drugs					,498	,202	6,098*	1,645	,529	,209	6,415*	1,698
Constant	,235	,089	6,886**	1,264	,299	,096	9,779**	1,348	,256	,101	6,407*	1,292
Cox & Snell R ²	18.9%				20.7%				27.8%			
Over all correct prediction	69.4%				69.6%				74.1%			
χ^2 (14)	134.67				149.10				209.51			

MEDIUM Level

Middle level of family violence
(n= 568)
Model 1

Middle level of family violence
(n= 568)
Model 2

Middle level of family violence
(n= 568)
Model 3

	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)
<i>Protective Factors</i>												
Self-Acceptance	-,141	,116	1,476	,868					-,258	,138	3,492	,772
Emotional Self-Control	-,321	,113	8,080**	,726					-,495	,141	12,357***	,610
Optimistic Future View	-,540	,110	24,049***	,583					-,515	,132	15,237***	,597
Actions against violence	-,213	,102	4,365*	,808					-,330	,121	7,368**	,719
Parental Supervision	-,074	,103	,515	,929					,186	,127	2,142	1,204
Close relation to teachers	-,126	,099	1,626	,881					-,256	,130	3,888*	1,291
School climate	-,098	,106	,856	,907					,084	,130	,418	1,087
<i>Risk Factors</i>												
Relational aggr. against girls					,438	,142	9,578**	1,550	,460	,146	9,906**	1,583
Relational aggr. against boys					1,102	,192	32,971***	3,011	1,253	,209	35,892***	3,500
Inconsistent parenting					,394	,110	12,755***	1,483	,226	,132	2,926	1,254
Aggression					,158	,123	1,637	1,171	,138	,136	1,035	1,148
supportive Beliefs					,193	,131	2,151	1,213	,225	,150	2,252	1,252
Verbal aggressive teachers					,257	,128	4,034*	1,294	,269	,139	3,748*	1,309
Alcohol					,331	,243	1,863	1,393	,431	,287	2,265	1,539
Drugs												
Constant	,736	,107	46,915***	2,088	,829	,128	42,261***	2,291	,822	,143	32,892***	2,276
Cox & Snell R ²	11.4%				23.6%				30.7%			
Over all correct prediction	74.3%				78.0%				80.1%			
χ^2 (14)	68.47				152.81				208.07			

HIGH Level

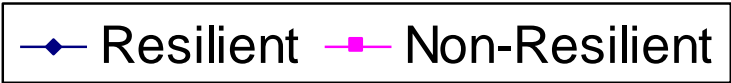
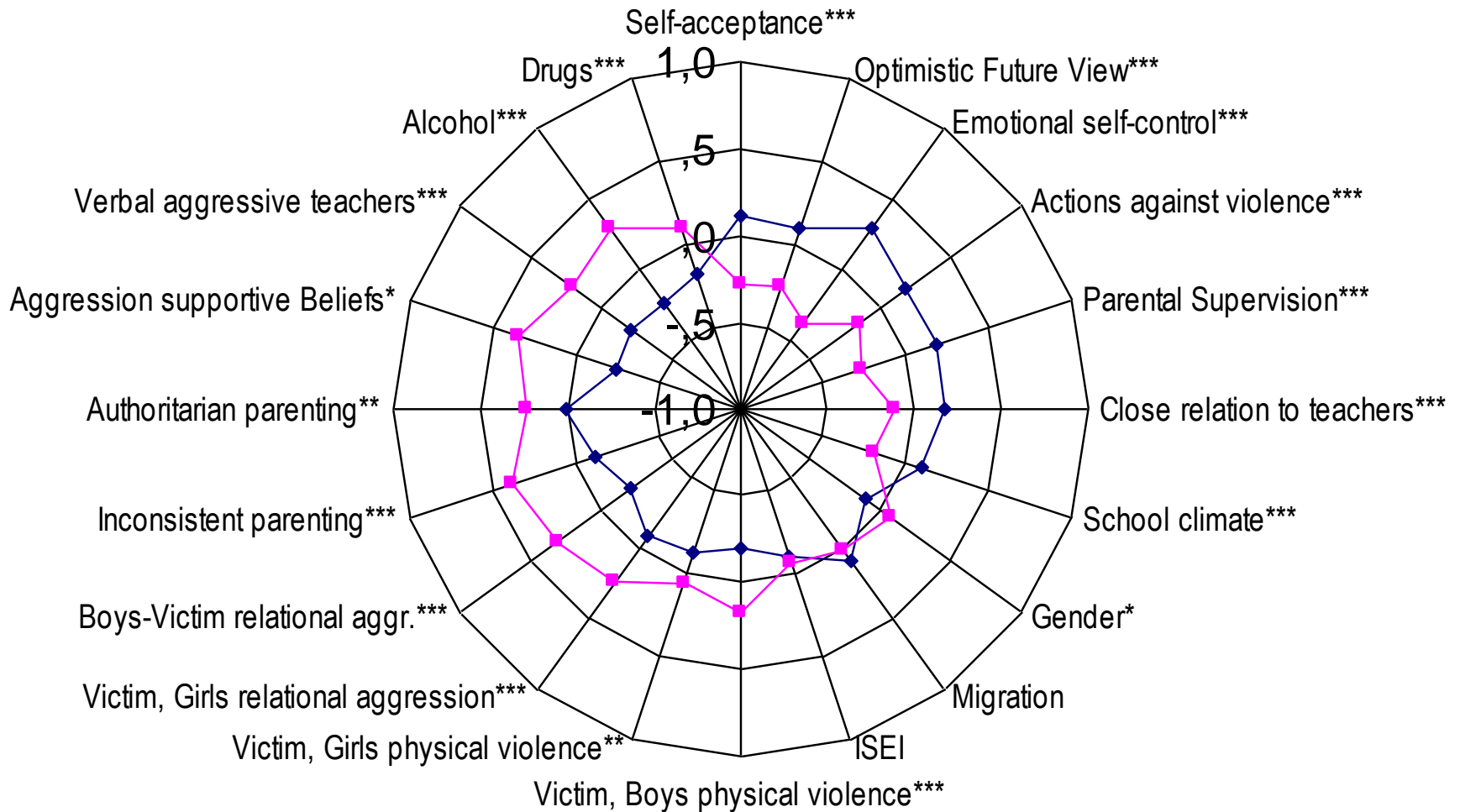
High level of family violence
(n= 432)
Model 1

High level of family violence
(n= 432)
Model 2

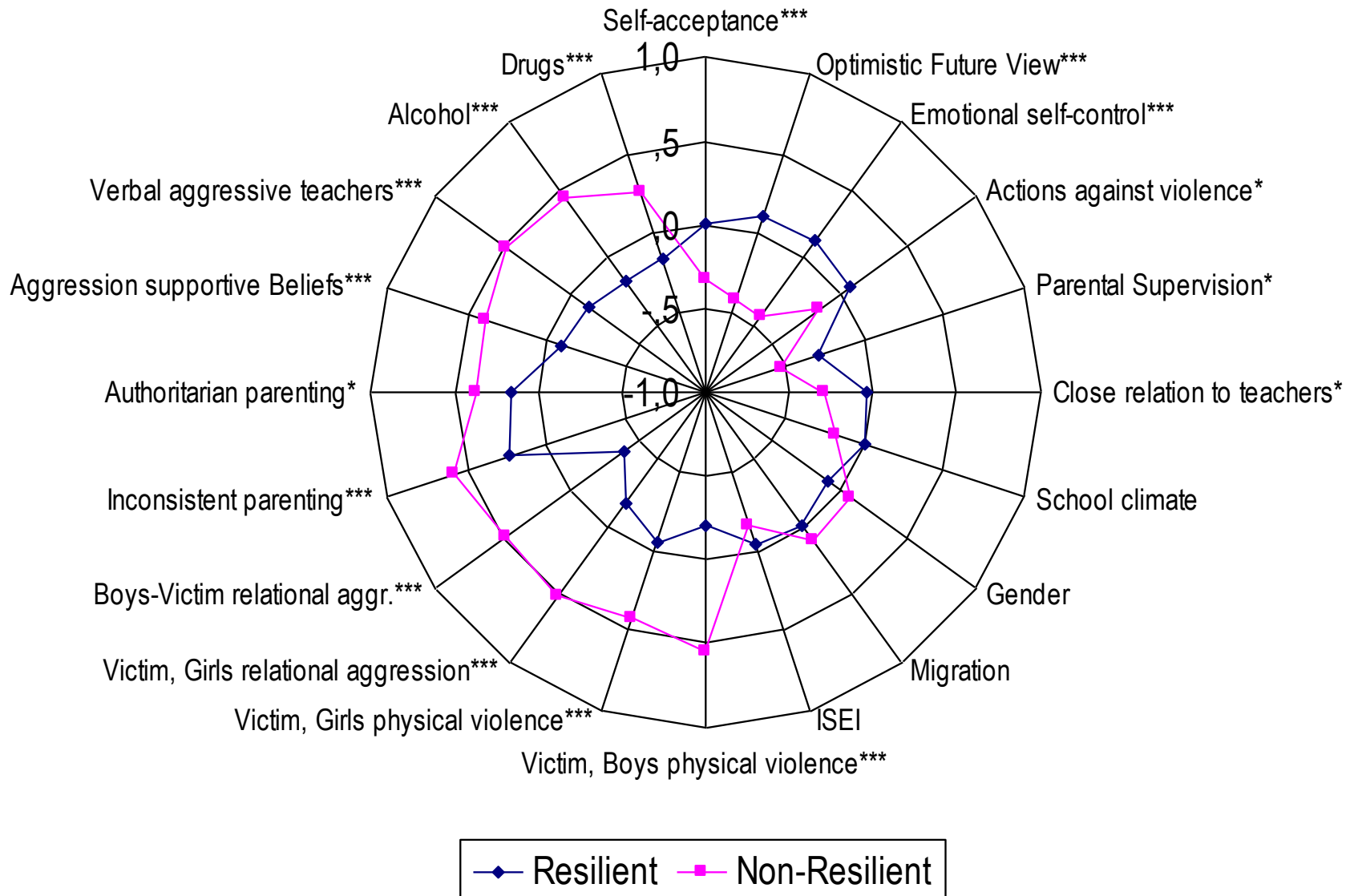
High level of family violence
(n= 432)
Model 3

	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)
<i>Protective Factors</i>												
Self-Acceptance	-,099	,143	,482	,905					-,181	,169	1,151	,834
Emotional Self-Control	-,208	,146	2,029	,812					-,119	,173	,474	,888
Optimistic Future View	-,498	,147	11,474**	,608					-,424	,178	5,694*	,655
Actions against violence	-,249	,150	2,743	,780					-,305	,170	3,200	,737
Parental Supervision	-,427	,149	8,191**	,653					-,183	,177	1,063	,833
Close relation to teachers	-,482	,143	11,460**	,617					-,040	,182	,049	,961
School climate	-,108	,130	,696	,897					,116	,155	,558	1,123
<i>Risk Factors</i>												
Relational aggr. against girls					,545	,194	7,908**	1,725	,502	,201	6,255*	1,653
Relational aggr. against boys					,297	,202	2,153	1,346	,333	,214	2,430	1,395
Inconsistent parenting					,400	,139	8,331**	1,492	,223	,160	1,948	1,250
Aggression supportive Beliefs					,254	,173	2,165	1,289	,181	,186	,945	1,198
Verbal aggressive teachers					,753	,202	13,953***	2,124	,735	,219	11,313**	2,085
Alcohol					,325	,164	3,926*	1,384	,277	,174	2,529	1,319
Drugs					,732	,385	3,621*	2,079	,809	,411	3,876*	2,246
Constant	,967	,144	45,113***	2,631	,775	,173	20,087***	2,171	,653	,185	12,438***	1,920
Cox & Snell R ²	14.1%				25.6%				28.2%			
Over all correct prediction	80.6%				85.6%				86.1%			
χ^2 (14)	65.62				127.66				143.20			

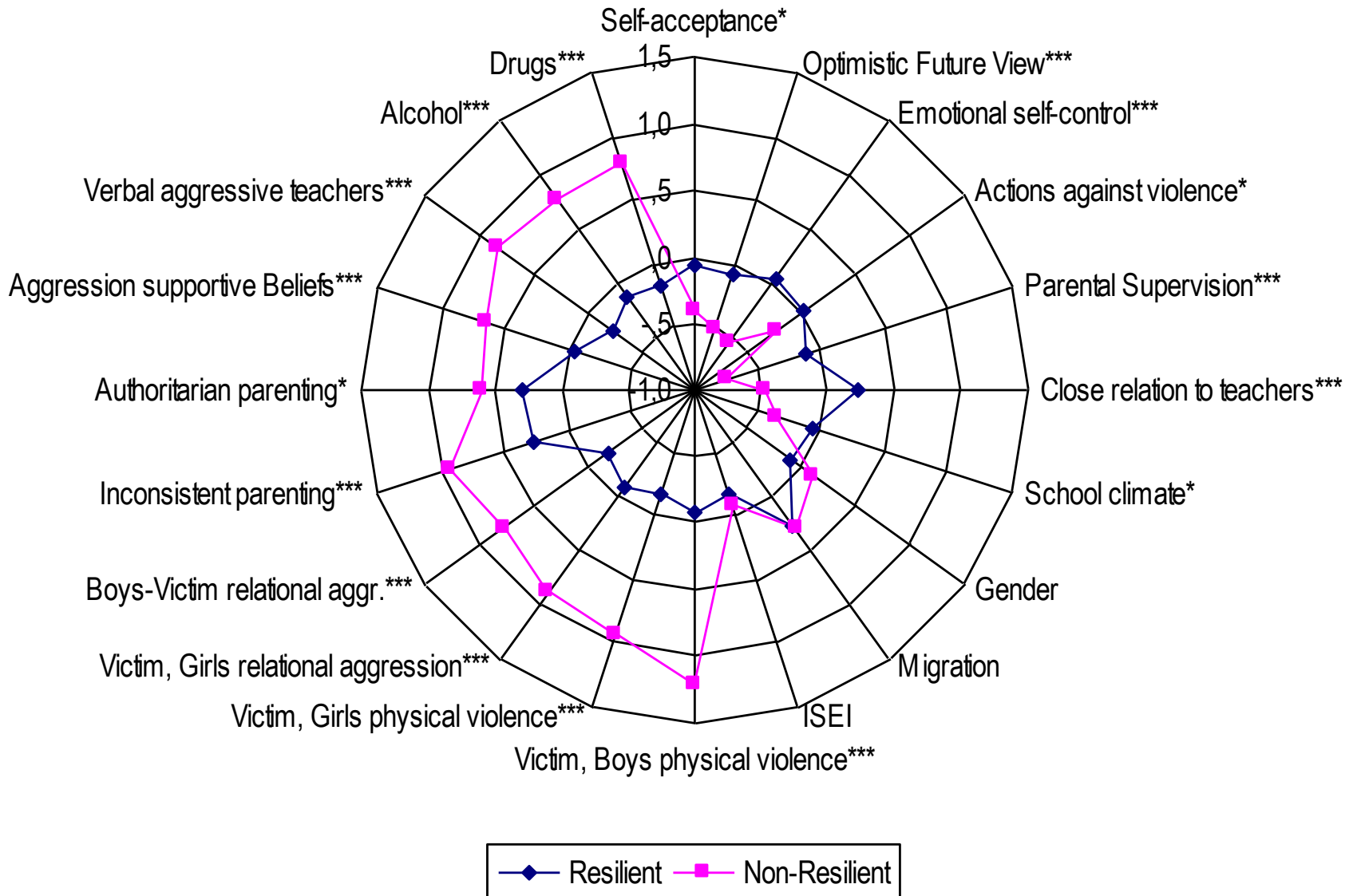
Low level of family violence



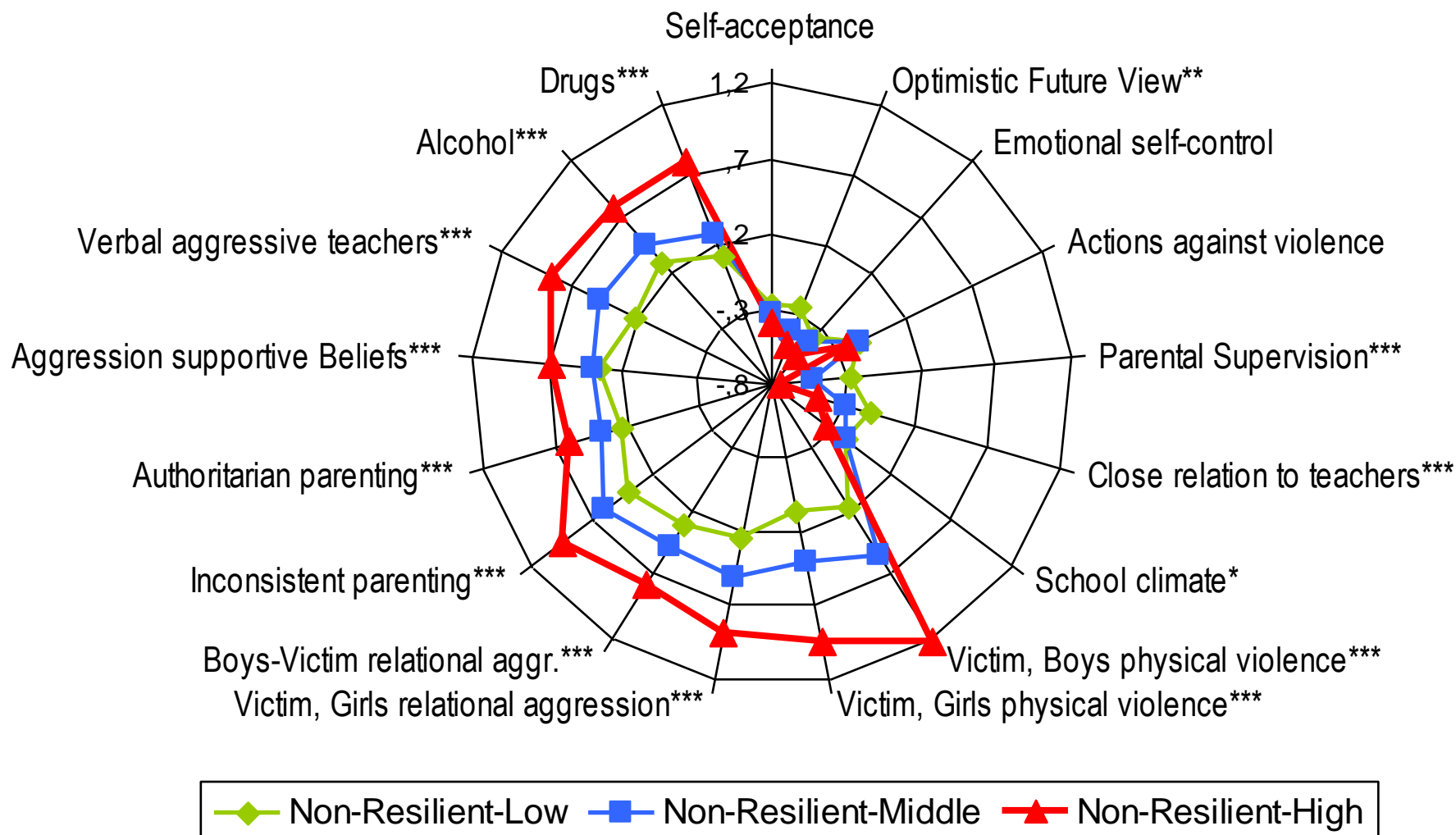
Middle level of family violence



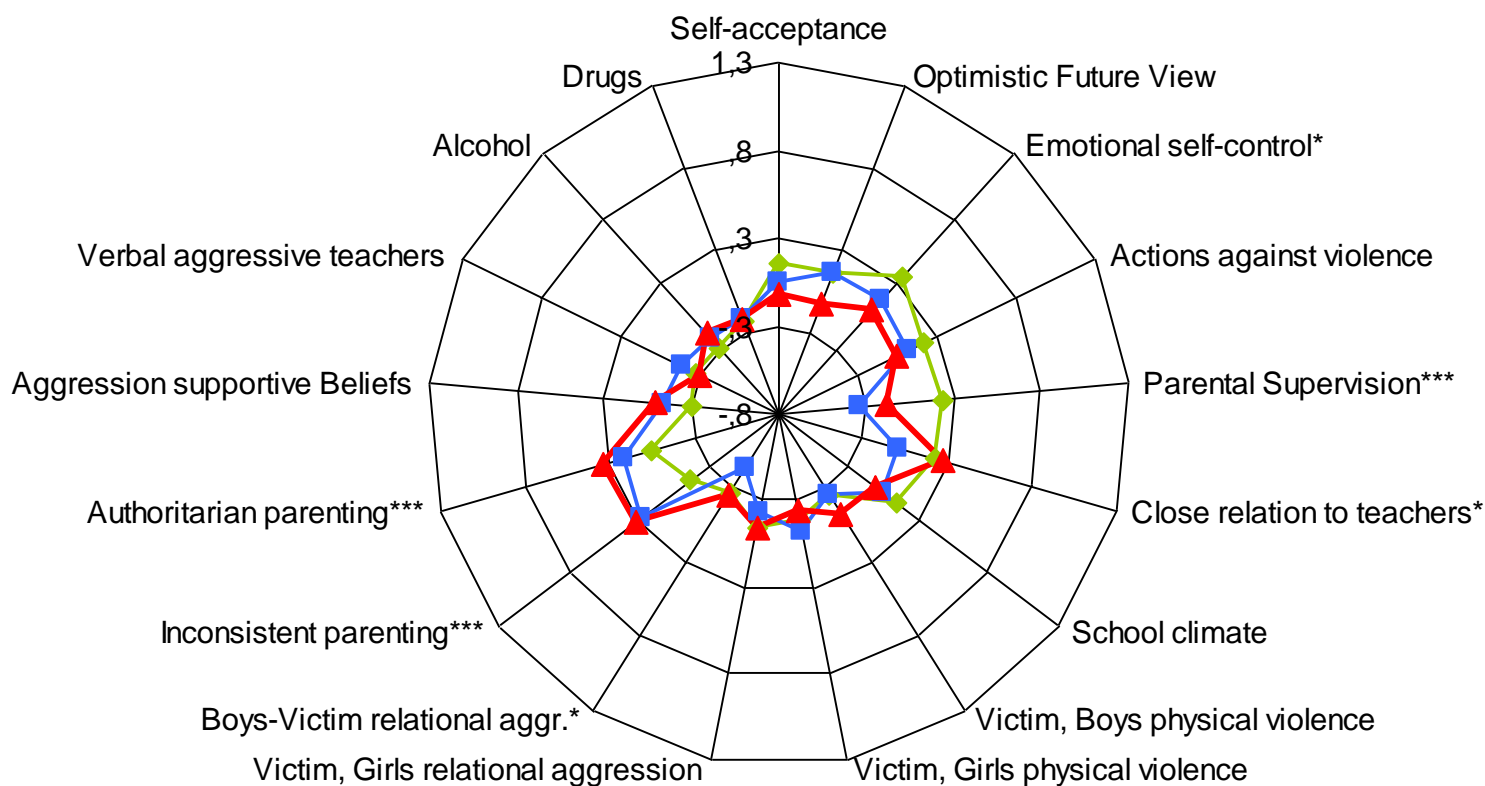
High level of family violence




Protective and risk profiles of the non-resilient adolescents



Protective and risk profiles of the resilient adolescents



◆ Resilient-Low
 ■ Resilient-Middle
 ▲ Resilient-High




Conclusions: Revisiting resilience theory and practice!


1. Violence-resilience is the absence of both externalizing and internalizing aggression.
2. Socioeconomic status and migration background of the families can't explain family violence or resilience.
3. Resilience needs to be related to the extent and form of violent experiences.
4. We have to rethink the way resilience theory and intervention are organized.
5. Resilient adolescents hold a bunch of protective factors (Multi-factor resilience socialization)



The value of political resilience realism

- Resilience politics would empower young people and equip youth workers/ therapists to work with compensatory interventions.
- But we have to remember, just doing compensatory work is not enough.
- One potential conclusion of these findings is that especially risk factors characterize resilience despite family violence.
- We can't just work with “supportive factors” we have to mitigate risk.

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- The resilience predictors are personal and social characteristics, so the way to resilience despite family violence is also a matter of (socio-)political acts on strengthening communities.
 - Due to these findings: The theory, the research, the politics and the intervention/prevention on violence-resilience have to be revisited.

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- **But first of all: We have to minimize the risks. Especially the family violence.**
 - **Our main conclusion is that the rates of 25% corporal abuse by parents or 16% physical partner abuse are**
 - **unacceptable**
 - **but very well distributed in all four national contexts**
 - **over all socioeconomic status groups in the EU.**



Thank you.

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You can find the final report of this project by the end of May
2011 at:

www.stamina-project.eu

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