

THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE

*Comparative Report from Six East European
Countries 2010-2013*



Nobody's Children Foundation

2013

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"Childhood without Abuse" project – www.canee.net



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1 Introduction

The goal of the study was to assess attitudes towards child abuse and corporal punishment as well as parental practices in six countries participating in the project "Childhood without Abuse: Towards a Better Child Protection System in Eastern Europe" financed by OAK Foundations¹. The same measurements were applied in 2010 and 2013 to provide an objective evaluation of the change that occurred during the project as well as comparison between countries. The results from earlier studies were also utilised to address the changes in attitudes towards corporal punishment and, in effect, findings from years 2005-2013 have been compared.

To achieve the above mentioned goal, the following research questions were stated:

- How do the respondents estimate the dynamics of various aspects of child abuse?
- What are the respondents' self-reported attitudes toward parental use of physical punishment of children?
- What are their attitudes towards a legal ban on different forms of corporal punishment?
- What institutions in the broadly understood field of child protection provide help for abused children?
- How do parents punish their children?

¹ The following organizations took part in the project: Children Support Centre in Lithuania (Paramos vaikams centras), Centre Against Abuse "Dardedze" in Latvia (Centrs Dardedze), Social Activities and Practices Institute in Bulgaria (Институт по социални дейности и практики /ИСДП/), Child Well-Being Fund (CWF) Ukraine (Український фонд «Благополуччя дітей») in Ukraine, National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention in Moldova (Centrul National de Prevenire a Abuzului Fata de Copii) and Nobody's Children Foundation (NCF) in Poland (Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje) which coordinated the project and the current study. More information at www.canee.net

2 Methodology

The study was conducted in May and June 2013 and aimed at replicating the same methodology as the similar study from 2010². The study was realised by GfK research agency and its partners in each country. The findings were analysed by Nobody's Children Foundation's research department.

The survey was conducted in six countries on representative random samples. The samples varied across the participating countries, depending on local conditions. Sample sizes ranged from N=500 to N=1000. In all the countries the samples were drawn from the population of people over 15 years old (details on methodology can be found in Table 1).

In all countries the procedure of statistical weighting of the sample was applied in order to assure that the structure of the sample reflects the social and demographic structure of country population. In 2013 minor changes in weighting methods were applied in order to comply with updated socio-demographical data about societies.

The survey was conducted by use of personal interviewing. In all participant countries interviewers met with the respondents (individually), asked them questions, and recorded their answers. In Poland, Lithuania and Latvia the questionnaire was filled with the help of laptop computer (CAPI – Computer-assisted Personal Interviewing), while in the other countries the interviewers used paper questionnaires (PAPI - Paper and Pencil Interviewing). The survey was conducted within an OMNIBUS study carried out in all the participating countries. This means that the set of questions about child abuse were asked among blocks of questions concerning other fields.

The questionnaire was developed in 2010 and consisted of 8 closed-ended questions (including one filtering question). It was translated to national languages and verified by partner organizations in all the participating countries. In some countries the

² Report from 2010 study is available online at

http://www.canee.net/files/COMPARATIVE_REPORT_2010_ENG.pdf [retrieved 14.08.2013]

questionnaire was prepared in two language versions – in two most commonly spoken languages. In Lithuania interviewers used the Lithuanian and Russian versions of the questionnaire; in Latvia – Latvian and Russian; in Ukraine – Ukrainian and Russian, and in Moldova – Moldovan (Romanian) and. In 2013 exactly the same questionnaires were used in all countries.

Table 1. Methodology of 2013 study

	Bulgaria	Lithuania	Latvia	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Sample size	N=500	N=500	N=500	N=500	N=1000	N=1000
Population	15+	15-74	15-59	15+	15-74	15-74
Surveying technique	PAPI	CAPI	CAPI	PAPI	CAPI	PAPI
Sampling type	Random route	Household addresses sample	Household addresses sample	Random route	Names sample (PESEL database)	Random route
Sample type	Random	Random	Random	Random	Random	Random
Fieldwork timeframe	1-15 June 2013	13-25 June 2013	25 May -15 June 2013	21 May - 04 June 2013	6-10 June 2013	15-29 May 2013
Statistical weighting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Variables used for weighting	Age, sex, region	Age, sex, region, town, settlement size	Age, sex, region, town, settlement size, ethnicity	Age, sex, region, town, settlement size	Age, sex, region, town, settlement size, household size	Age, sex, region, town, settlement size
Methodological changes compared to 2010 study	Wider population (18+ in 2010)	CAPI instead of PAPI; Minor changes in sampling methods	CAPI instead of PAPI; Minor changes in sampling methods	-	Changes in sampling methods (individuals base instead of household base)	-

Additionally, for some comparisons data from two previous studies conducted within the project *Childhood without Abuse - Toward a Better Child Protection System in Eastern Europe* in 2005 and 2009 have been used. Both were based on national representative random samples in seven countries (six mentioned above and Macedonia). The sample sizes in particular countries ranged from 500 to 2057 in 2005 and from 500 to 1501 in 2009 and the interviews were realised as part of omnibus surveys³.

Although all of the studies were conducted with careful consideration of methodology issues, one should be aware of general limitations connected with this type of surveys and specifically with this research issue. The study captures only respondents' declarations which may be distinct from respondents' behaviours from a number of reasons. Moreover, some questions included in this study can be described as sensitive. There might be a discrepancy between the real opinions of the respondents and the opinions that they find socially acceptable and desirable and in effect some people might have not answered sincerely. This issue was handled by ensuring anonymity and confidentiality as well as by careful wording of the questions, however there are no methods to fully escape this kind of limitations.

³ Reports from 2005 study are available at

http://canee.net/bulgaria/research_the_problem_of_child_abuse_attitudes_and_experiences_in_seven_countries_of_central_and_eastern_europe

Report from 2009 study is available at

http://canee.net/bulgaria/problem_of_child_abuse_in_central_and_eastern_europe_in_2005_2009

3 Main Findings

Executive summary of most important findings:

Social perception of child abuse

- Substantial proportion of respondents in most countries declared that in their view corporal punishment is occurring less often now than 10 years ago. In Lithuania, Poland and Moldova this was the dominating view.
- For most other forms of child abuse, more respondents claimed that it is occurring more and more often than those who thought it is occurring less.
- In respondents' view the lack of parental care was the most growing problem. Also sexual abuse and emotional abuse was seen as occurring more and more.
- Compared to 2010, no general trends can be described – in some countries the perception became more optimistic while in others the situation was opposite or have not changed.

Attitudes towards corporal punishment

- In all six countries only the minority of respondents declared unconditional acceptance of corporal punishment (that it can be used whenever parents find it suitable). These figures varied for different countries and ranged in 2013 from 2% in Latvia to 13% in Lithuania
- The attitude that corporal punishment could be justified in some cases was more popular and was declared by 35% (Bulgaria) to 56% (Lithuania) of respondents.
- The view that corporal punishment should never be used was widespread and it was the most popular attitude in four out of six countries. Only in Lithuania the conditional acceptance of corporal punishment (could not be used generally, but in some cases its use is justified) was more popular. In Ukraine both attitudes were the same popular.

- In most countries the acceptance of corporal punishment as child-rearing method dropped significantly since 2005.

Attitudes towards legal ban of corporal punishment

- The support for legal ban of corporal punishment was expressed by 37% to 66%. The support was the highest in Bulgaria and Moldova, lower in Poland and Ukraine and the lowest in Lithuania and Latvia.
- When it comes to legal ban on specific behaviours vast majority in most countries support legal ban of conducts such as slapping a child across the face or beating him or her with belt or another object or by hand. This support exceeds 70% in most cases.
- Legal ban of spanking is supported by a minority of respondents: from 43% in Moldova to only 26% in Lithuania and Ukraine.
- In most countries the support for legal ban of corporal punishment rose since 2010 or have not changed. However, with regard to forbidding particular behaviours the trends are not clear.

Institutions perceived as assistance providers

- In respondents' opinion children-victims of abuse can count on social service, police and school to a greater extent. The justice system and NGOs were assessed somewhat lower.
- Generally, the Moldovans put the highest trust in all institutions while Ukrainians revealed the lowest trust in most cases.
- Since 2010 the trust to most institutions have improved.

Child-rearing practices

- Practices involving physical violence like slapping across the face, beating with belt or beating by hand had different incident rates in particular countries but

in many cases more than 20% of parents declared that they have used it at least once.

- From 2% (Latvia) to 6% (Lithuania and Ukraine) of parents admitted that they have beaten their child so that it left marks or bruises. At the same time rates of these severe corporal punishment decreased in most countries since 2010.
- Spanking was prevalent in most countries. In all states but Lithuania more than 60% of parents admitted that they have ever used it. In four out of six countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Poland) the use of spanking decreased in comparison with 2010
- Raising one's voice at the child was the most often applied type of punishment. In all countries rates exceeded 75%. Criticizing and name calling were in most cases much less frequent.
- Putting bans on meetings with friends or on the use of devices or equipment were types of disciplinary practices used by around 50% of parents in most countries.

4 Results

The report presents all results of the survey organised thematically. Primarily the results from newest 2013 survey are described but changes and trends are always analysed in comparison to 2010 findings.

As the study was replicated in two time points and conducted in six countries with the use of same research tools, the collected findings enable unique comparisons in two dimensions:

- Comparisons in time between 2010 and 2013 (and in some cases 2005-2013);
- International comparison between six countries of eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine.

4.1 Social perception of child abuse

First questions of the study regarded the perception of the problem of child abuse. Respondents were asked to provide a following estimation concerning corporal punishment, yelling, verbal humiliation and lack of parental care and sexual abuse:

How do you estimate changes in the incidence of the following parental behaviours, which have been occurring in your country in the last 10 years?

Participants could choose if they think given behaviour “occurs more often”, “occurs less often” or “remains unchanged” or if they cannot provide answer (“hard to say”).

The results should be treated as an indicator of the public opinion or perception of the phenomena rather than detailed estimations. Moreover, in most cases there was a substantial proportion of those who felt unable to provide estimation and chose “hard to say” option (for full finding see Table 1 in Annex).

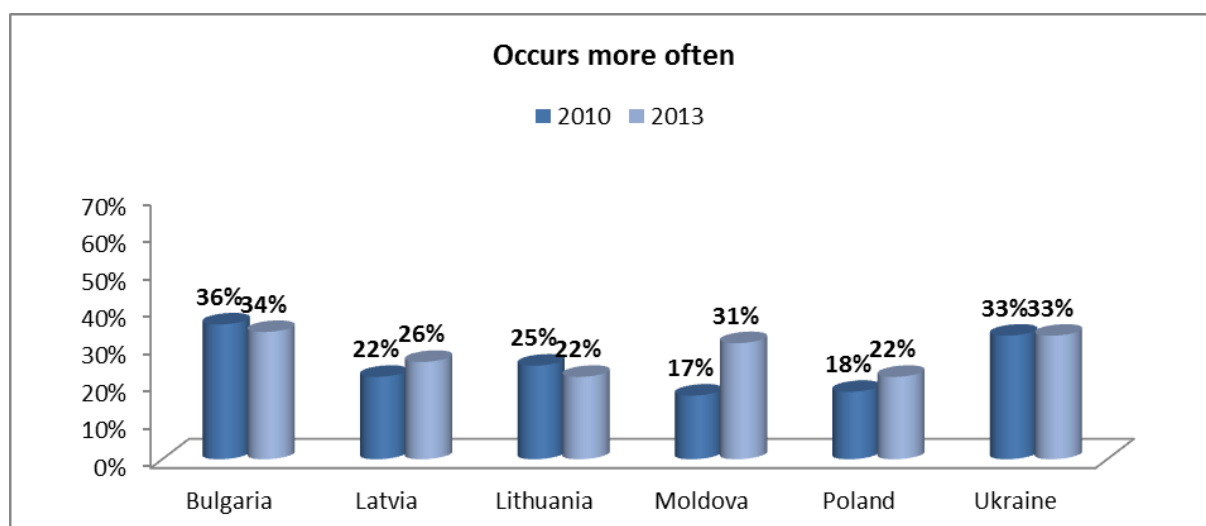
Corporal punishment

First question concerned perception of the prevalence of corporal punishment in general (Fig.1). In 2013, respondents who believed corporal punishment occurs more

often were least numerous in Poland and Lithuania (22%), and most numerous in Moldova (31%), Ukraine (33%) and Bulgaria (34%).

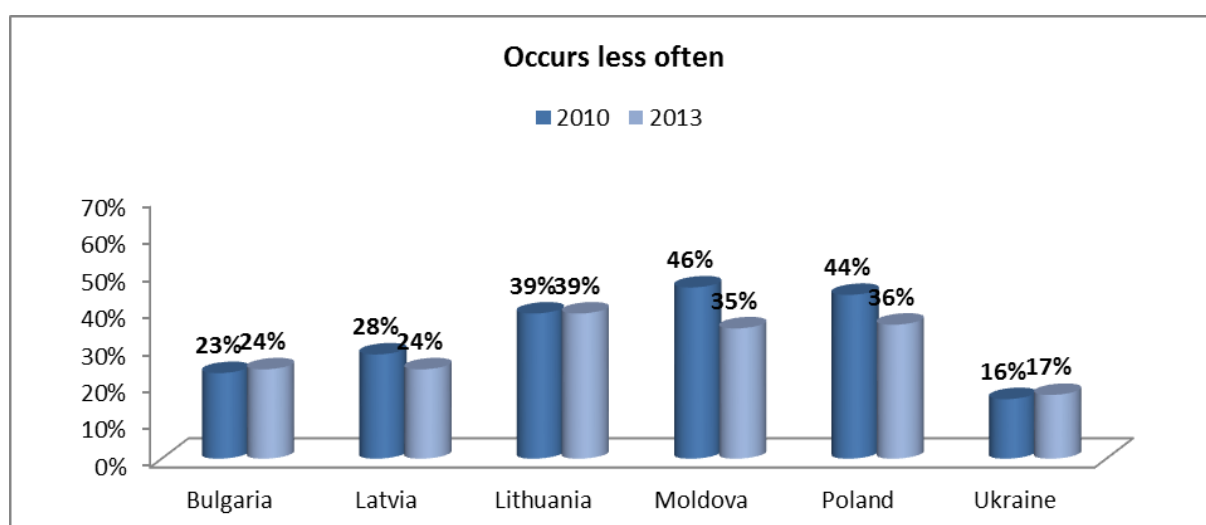
Since 2010 this belief became more popular in Moldova (most significant change), Latvia and Poland. The decrease in such view was noted in Bulgaria and Lithuania. In Ukraine it remained at the same level.

Fig. 1. Respondents perceiving corporal punishment as more frequent



The opposite view, that corporal punishment became less widespread, was in 2013 most prevalent in Lithuania (39%), Poland (36%) and Moldova (35%). In Bulgaria and Latvia this was the opinion of one nearly one fourth of population (24%). In Ukraine such view was held only by 17% (Fig. 2).

Fig 2. Respondents perceiving corporal punishment as less frequent



As one could see, views on the prevalence of corporal punishment were very diverse in six countries. In Ukraine, Bulgaria and Latvia „pessimists” claiming that the situation is deteriorating prevailed over „optimists” who saw the improvement. In Poland, Lithuania and Moldova the situation is reverse: more people think that the problem is shrinking than that it is growing.

In Moldova there is a situation of polarisation, where high percentage of society see the problem as shrinking and nearly the same high as growing.

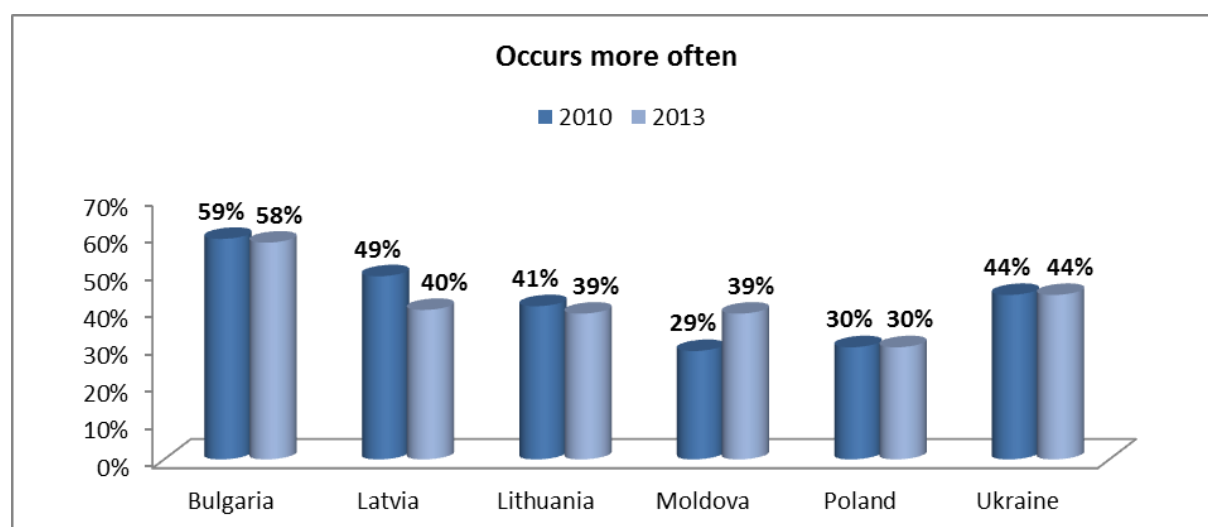
In most countries, there is also big group of those who think the problem remains at the same level (conf. Table 1 in Annex).

Yelling

The belief that yelling at children occurs more often in the course of last 10 years was more widespread than in the case of corporal punishment. In 2013 this opinion was shared by 30% of Poles, 39% of Moldovans and Lithuanians, 40% of Latvians, 44% of Ukrainians and as much as 58% of Bulgarians (fig. 3).

These figures were, however, in most countries lower or equal to those observed in 2010 except for Moldova where the percentage of those who said that yelling occurs more often rose.

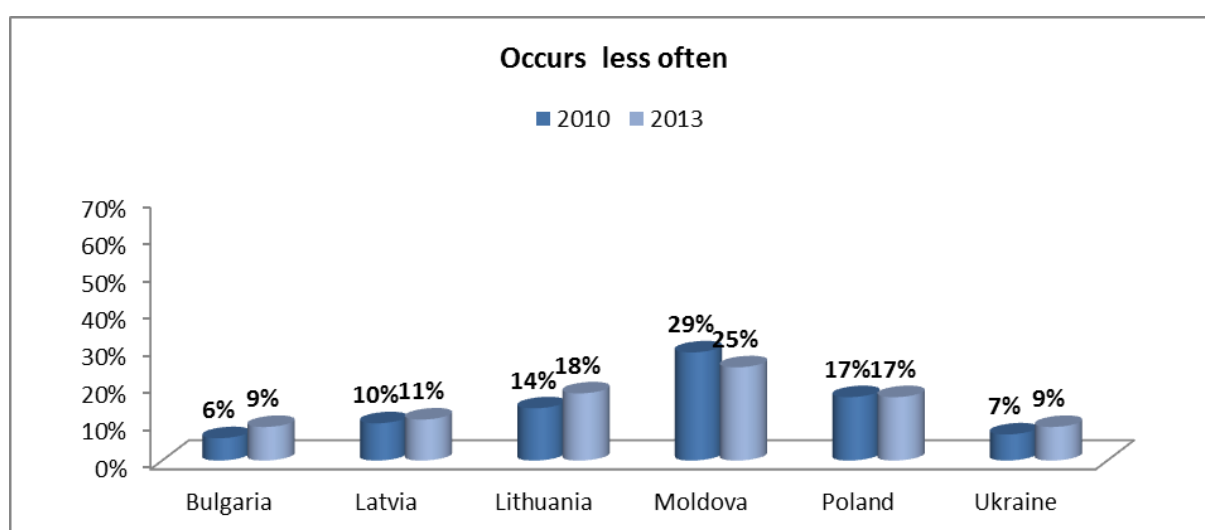
Fig. 3. Respondents perceiving yelling at children as more frequent



The opposite opinion, that yelling occurs less often is held by lower proportions of respondents. In 2013, this view was least popular in Bulgaria and Ukraine (9%) and most widespread in Moldova (25%) (fig. 4).

These percentages were equal or higher to those from 2010 again with the exception of Moldova where the opposite trend was visible.

Fig 4. Respondents perceiving yelling at children as less frequent



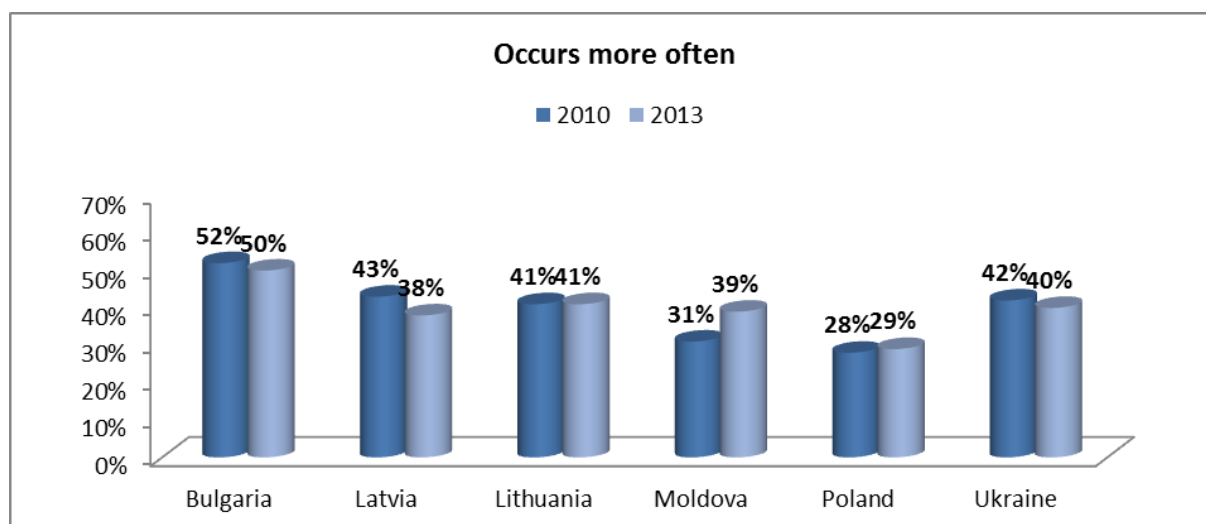
Unlike with the case of corporal punishment, in all countries it was evident that those who think that yelling occurs more often were more numerous than those of more opposite approach. The biggest disproportion between these two groups was noted in Bulgaria and Ukraine whereas in Moldova and Poland they were more close to each other.

Calling names, verbal humiliation

The estimations of dynamics concerning calling children names and general verbal humiliation was in many regards similar to those for yelling (fig. 5). Also here the highest proportion of those who estimated growth in verbal humiliation towards children was in highest in Bulgaria (50% in 2013) and lowest in Poland (29%).

The changes in responses between 2010 and 2013 were minor and for most countries the more recent figures were equal or lower than those from 2010. The exceptions were Poland and Moldova.

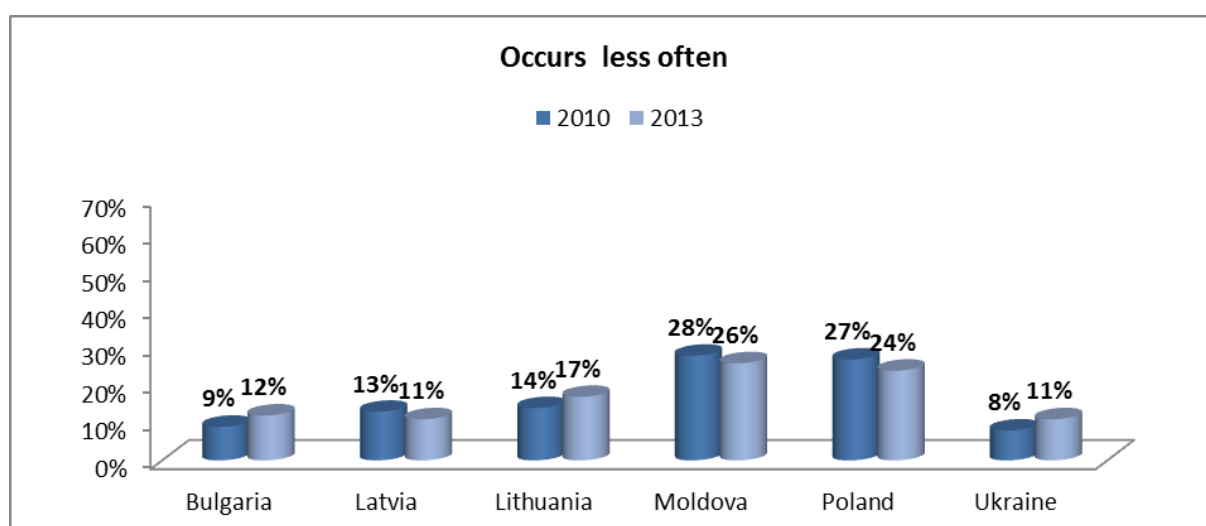
Fig. 5. Respondents perceiving calling names as more frequent



The opinion that calling names occurs less often was least prevalent in Latvia and Ukraine (11%), and most in Poland (24%) and Moldova (26%) (fig. 6).

Since 2010, this stance became less common in Poland, Latvia and Moldova and more common in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Fig 6. Respondents perceiving calling names as less frequent



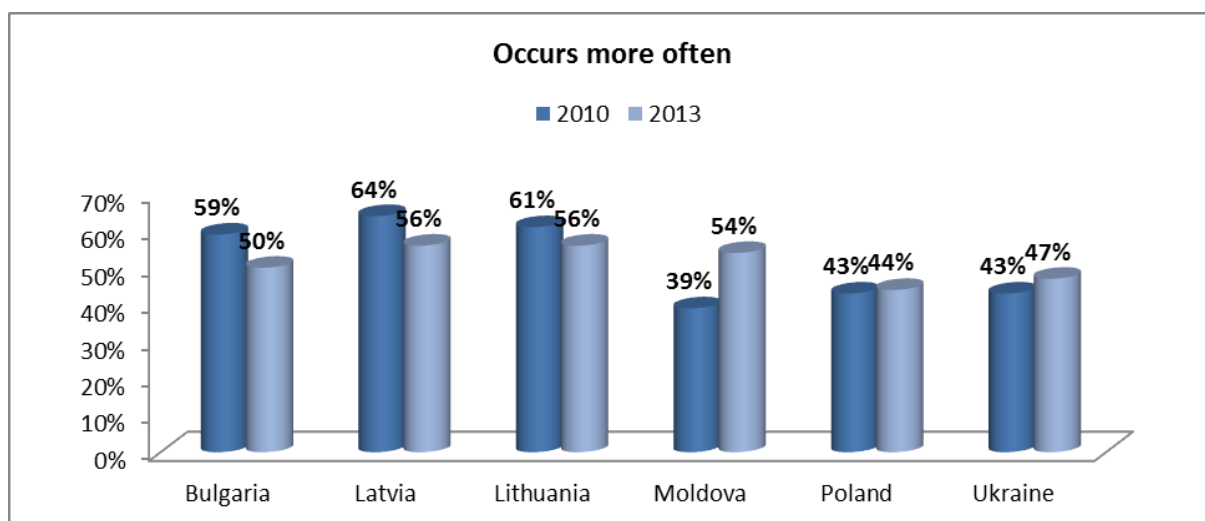
Similarly to the findings regarding estimation of prevalence of yelling, in all countries more people thought that verbal abuse towards children grew in last 10 years than that it dropped. Again, the biggest difference between the two groups was observed in Bulgaria and Ukraine and the smallest in Poland and Moldova.

Lack of parental care

In four out of six countries of the study in 2013, the majority of the respondents agreed that in past 10 years there is more lack of parental care in their countries. These were Bulgaria (50%), Moldova (54%), Latvia and Lithuania (both 56%). In remaining two countries (Poland and Ukraine) this percentage was also high (44% and 47% respectively).

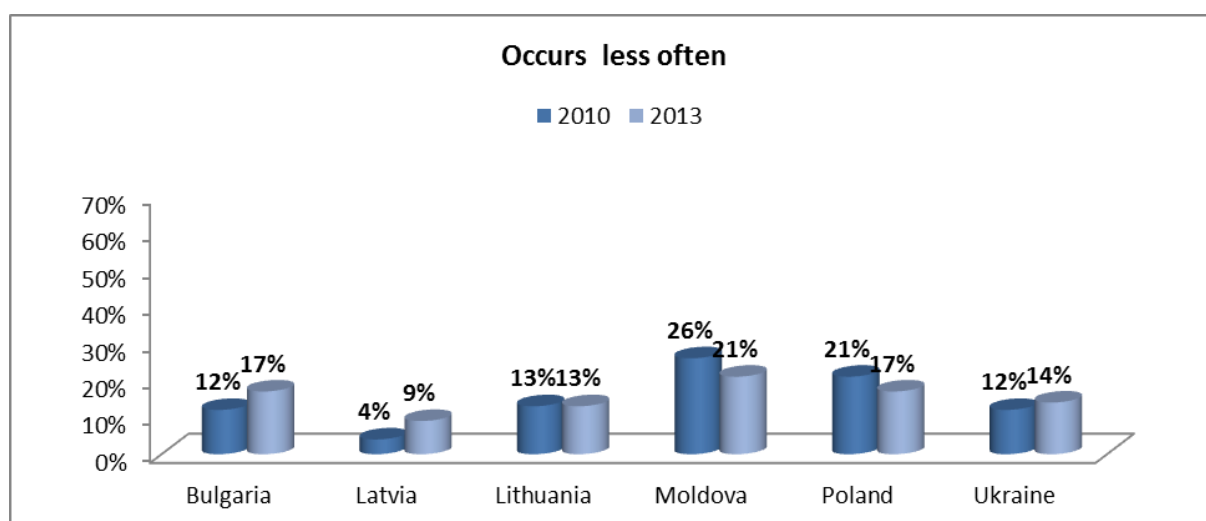
In three countries there was a drop in this opinion noted (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania). In the other three there was an increase - slight increase was found in Poland and Ukraine and more substantial in Moldova.

Fig 7. Respondents perceiving lack of parental care as more frequent



In 2013 the proportion of those who think that lack of parental care happens less often ranged from 9% in Latvia to 21% in Moldova (fig. 8). This group has grown in Bulgaria, Latvia and Ukraine and has shrunk in Moldova and Poland. In Lithuania there was no change observed.

Fig 8. Respondents perceiving lack of parental care as less frequent

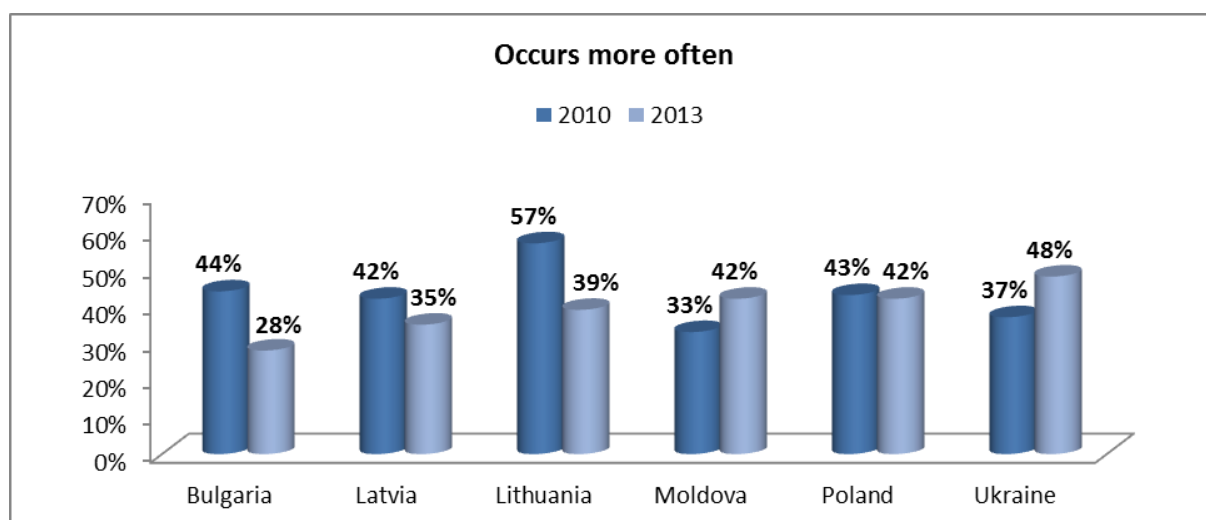


Generally, in all populations under study, proportion of those who think the problem is growing is higher than the proportion of people with opposite opinion. The “gap” between these two opinions was biggest in Latvia and smallest in Poland.

Sexual Abuse

In 2013, the percentage of respondents who declared that in their opinion child sexual abuse occurs in last 10 years more often was between 28% (Bulgaria) and 48% (Ukraine) (Fig. 9).

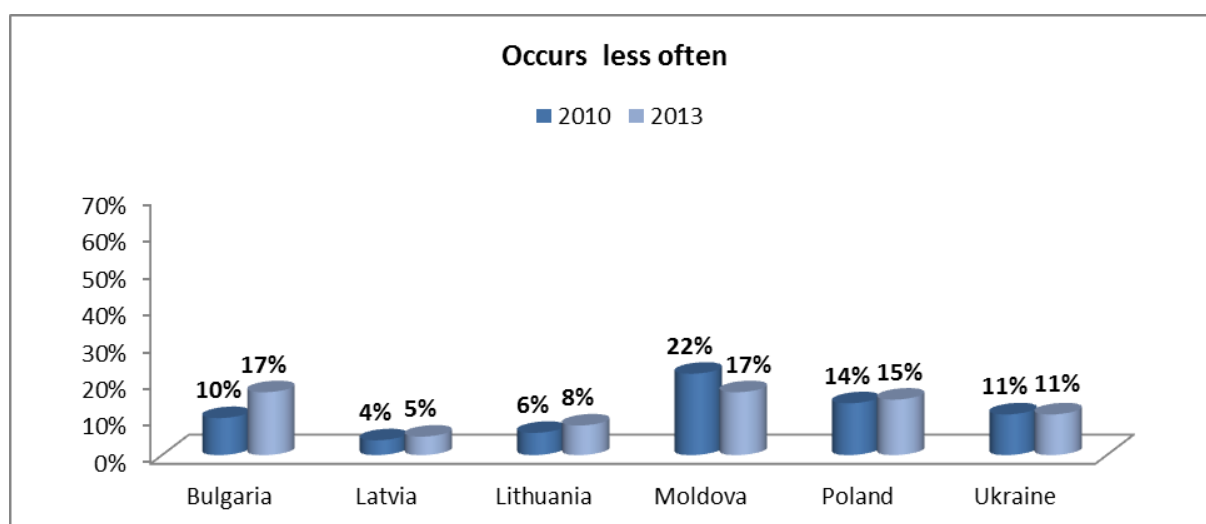
Fig 9. Respondents perceiving sexual abuse as more frequent



In three countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania) there was a noticeable decrease in that opinion in comparison to 2010. In Poland it remained practically at the same level and in Moldova and Ukraine this viewpoint was held by more people than three years ago.

As for the belief that child sexual abuse occurs less often it was expressed only by minority of the respondents (Fig. 10). In 2013, in neither country has this percentage reached 20%. The lowest proportion was noted in Latvia (5%), the highest in Bulgaria in Moldova (17%).

Fig. 10. Respondents perceiving sexual abuse as less frequent



In all countries the opinion that the scale of child sexual abuse increases was much more common than the opposite. The difference was highest in Ukraine (37 per cent points) and lowest in Bulgaria (11 per cent points).

In summary, the overall perception of different forms of child abuse in all countries is tending towards the opinion that they occur more often rather than less often. These should not be however treated as objective indicator of the trends in prevalence of child abuse but rather as the reflection of public opinion created mainly by media and not primarily by own experiences. For example, cases of child sexual exploitation or extreme neglect are often presented by sensation-seeking media which may be the cause that many respondents perceive child sexual abuse and lack of parental care as growing problems.

The important exception from the above pattern was corporal punishment. In three out of six countries more respondents claimed that it occurs less often than that it escalates. This important finding shows that in social perception the situation is changing and corporal punishment is gradually less and less employed. On the other hand, many respondents considered yelling at children and calling names as growing problems which may be connected with the raising awareness that such behaviours are problematic or with the assumption that when corporal punishment is becoming less frequent the verbal punishment is gaining in popularity.

4.2 Attitudes towards corporal punishment

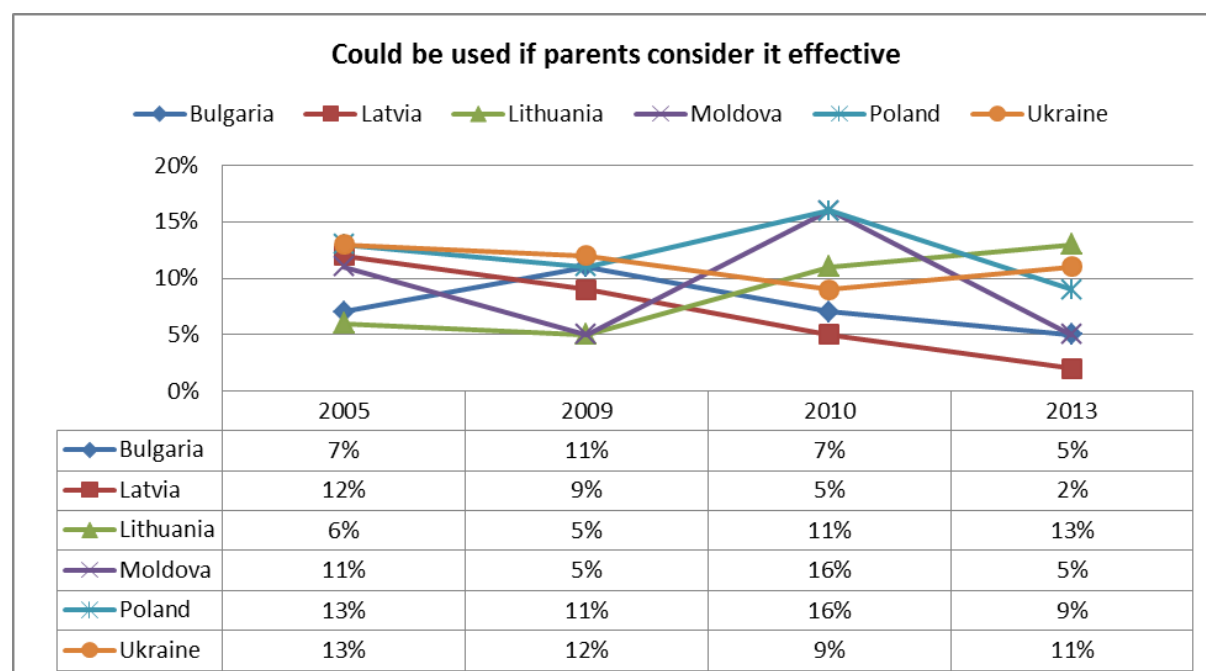
Second module of the study concerned normative attitude towards corporal punishment. Respondents were offered choice out of three following possibilities:

In your opinion, is beating a child as punishment a childrearing method, which:
a) Could be used whenever the parent believes it is going to be effective;
b) Should not be used in general, but is justified in some situations;
c) Should never be used.

These attitudes can be described as: a) normative acceptance; b) conditional acceptance; c) normative non-acceptance.

It is worth noting that this question was asked not only in 2010 and 2013 study but also in two previous research projects in 2005 and 2009 what provides unique comparative perspective⁴.

Fig. 11. Acceptance of the use of corporal punishment 2005-2013 in six countries

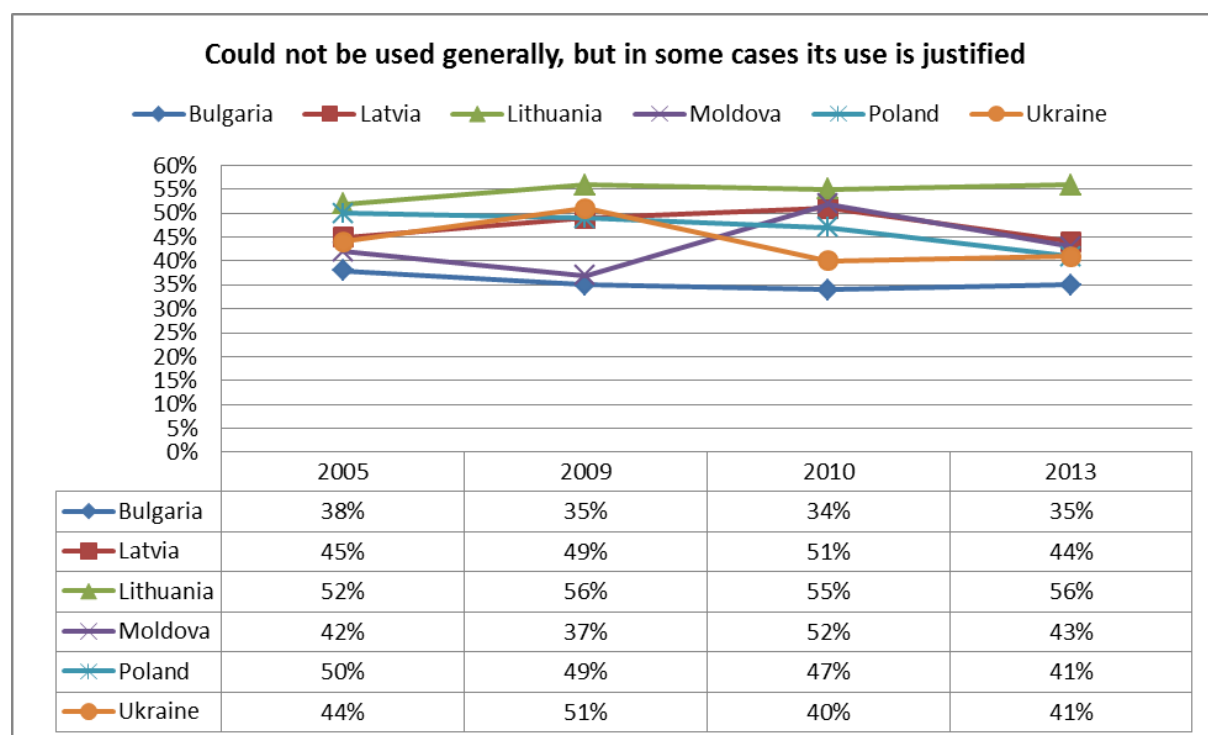


⁴ The comparative report from 2005-2009 study is available online at <http://www.canee.net/files/comparative%20report%202009.pdf> [retrieved 14.08.2013]

The first attitude, granting permission for the use of corporal punishment to the parents was shared by the minority of adults in all participating countries (Fig. 11). The proportion in 2013 ranged from 2% in Latvia to 13% in Lithuania which is interesting owing to the regional neighbourhood and many similarities between these two countries. Both in Moldova and Bulgaria the percentage was 5% and in Poland and Ukraine about one in ten shared this idea (9% and 11% respectively)

The changes in attitude in the course of 8 years have not had same direction for all countries. The only state where this attitude became more widespread than in 2005 and in which consequent growth was noted is Lithuania. On the contrary in Latvia witnessed highest drop in this attitude from 12% in 2005 to only 2% in 2013. In other countries the trends were not stable but in 4 out of 6 countries there was a drop in this opinion in last 3 years (2010-2013). In 2013 all countries except Lithuania the attitude was less popular than in 2005.

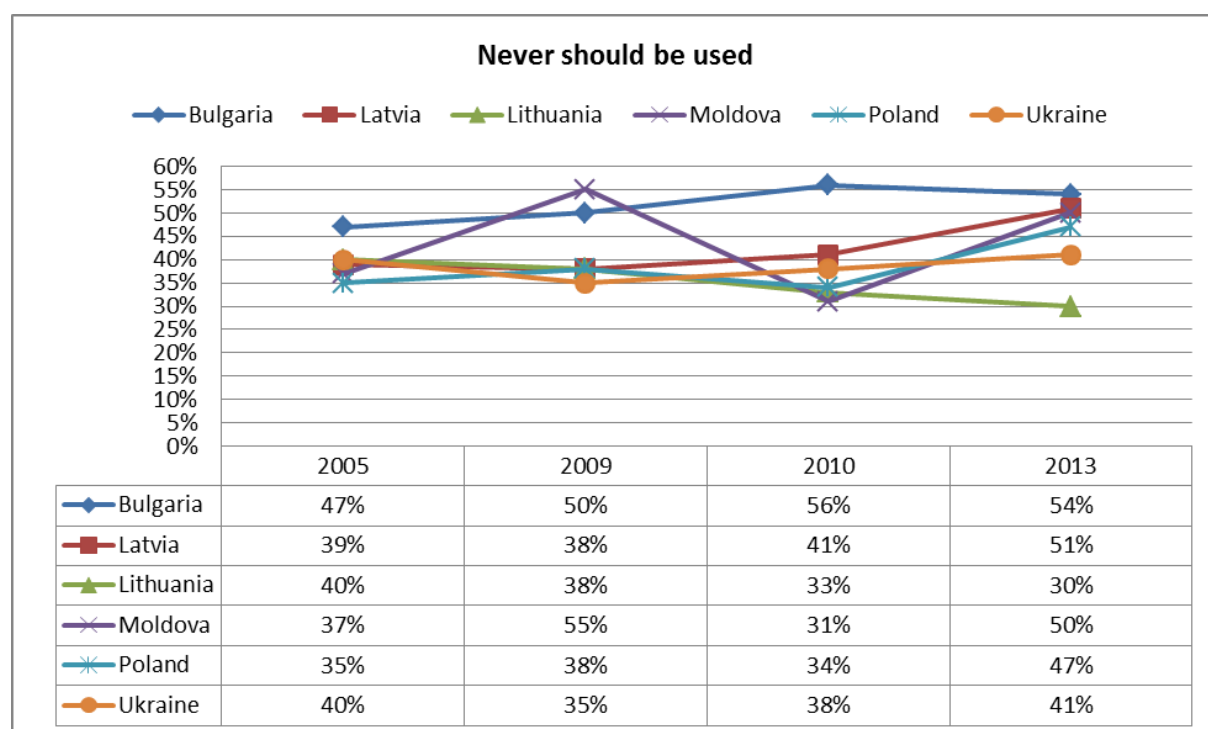
Fig. 12. Conditional acceptance of the use of corporal punishment 2005-2013 in six countries



The second attitude of conditional acceptance was most prevalent in Lithuania (56% in 2013) and least prevalent in Bulgaria (35%). In other countries in 2013 about two fifths of the society declared this opinion (from 41% in Ukraine and Poland to 44% in Latvia) (Fig. 12).

This attitude was voiced by relatively stable proportion across the time in most countries. Biggest change was noted in Poland where the support for this option dropped from 50% in 2005 to 41% in 2013. In Ukraine and Moldova some changes were observed in past years but in 2013 the situation eventually resembled the findings from 2005.

Fig. 13. Non-acceptance of the use of corporal punishment 2005-2013 in six countries



The third attitude of declared non-acceptance of corporal punishment was most often chosen option in four countries (Fig. 13). Only in Lithuania the conditional acceptance was declared by more respondents than total non-acceptance (30% in 2013) and in Ukraine these two attitudes were declared by exactly the same percentage of respondents (41%). In remaining countries about half of the population opted that corporal punishment should never be used (from 47% in Poland to 54% in Bulgaria).

In Bulgaria the support for non-acceptance of corporal punishment was high and stable across the time. In other countries it rose significantly over the years (Moldova, Latvia and Poland). In Ukraine it remained at the same level and in Lithuania dropped by 10 per cent points.

Summarizing these findings one can note that generally in all countries participating the societies are divided into three parts. First two are people who strongly oppose the use of corporal punishment and those who are generally against but allow exceptions. These two groups are approximately of the same size and together constitute the majority. The third group are proponents of corporal punishment who think parents are entitled to use it freely. This group was a minority in every country although the size of this group varied.

Comparison of findings from four studies do not reveal clear changing trends, but one should bear in mind that for the sake of measuring social attitudes, time spans between the surveys were relatively short. Particular measurements may have been also influenced by temporary circumstances like media debates on corporal punishment. However, it can be noted that between 2005 and 2013 in five out of six countries the percentage of people accepting corporal punishment decreased and percentage of people rejecting it increased.

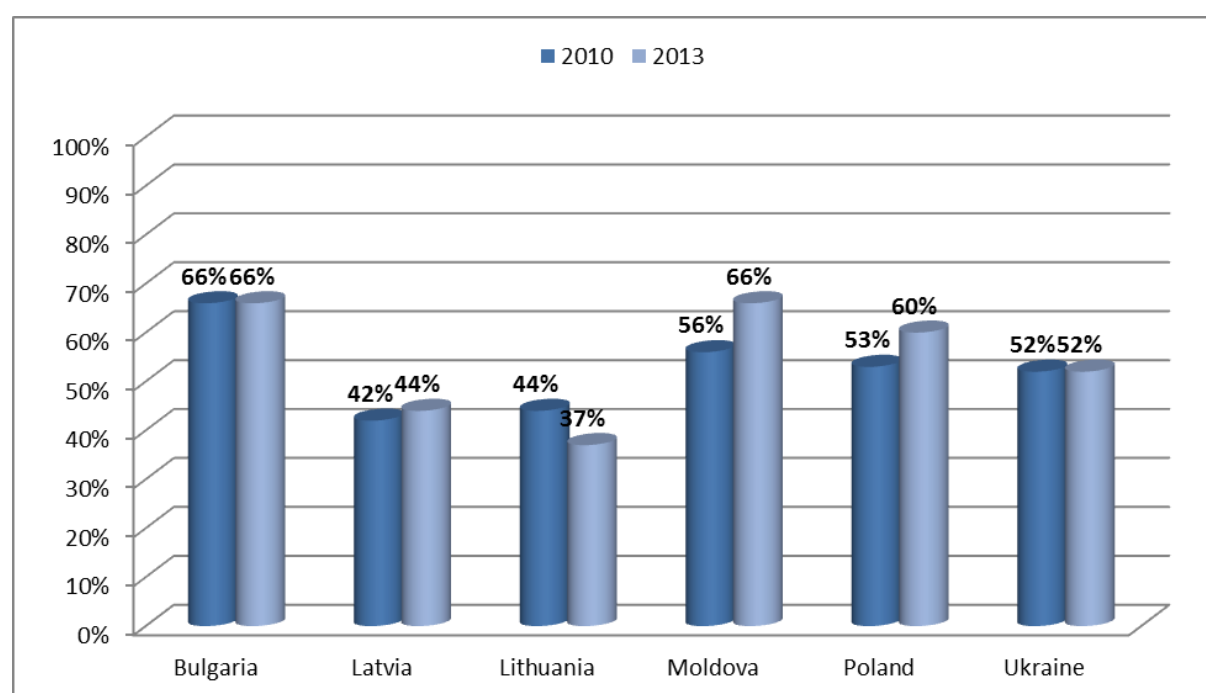
4.3 Attitudes towards legal ban of corporal punishment

The respondents were asked not only about their personal attitude towards physical punishment but also about their opinion towards the legal ban of corporal punishment. They were asked the following question could response on a 5-point Likert scale from “rather yes” to “rather no” (for full findings see Table 3 in Annex).

Do you think that physical punishment of one’s own children should be forbidden by law?

Generally, the support for such regulations was high. In 2013, in three countries: Moldova, Bulgaria and Poland it reached or exceeded 60%, in Ukraine it was 52%. It was lower in Latvia (44%) and Lithuania (37%). Actually the support for general legal ban of corporal punishment (Fig. 14) was in nearly all countries higher than general non-acceptance for this behaviour (Fig. 13). One possible explanation of this fact would be that when thinking of general acceptance people have in mind all possible forms of punishment while in the context of legal ban they think about severe ones.

Fig. 14. Support for the legal ban of corporal punishment (summary of “yes” and “rather yes” answers)



When it comes to comparison in time, in Poland and Moldova the support for the ban grew from 2010, in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Latvia it remained practically at the same level and in Lithuania dropped.

How do these findings relate to the actual legislation in countries involved in the study? In four countries where the support for the ban was over 50% the legislation forbidding corporal punishment is relatively new. In Ukraine and Bulgaria it was enforced in 2003, in Moldova – 2008 and in Poland in 2010 (between the two editions of the study). In Latvia such regulations existed longer – since 1998. In Lithuania, where the support for the ban was the lowest, no legislation forbidding corporal punishment of children exist yet⁵.

Respondents were not only asked broadly about the legal ban of corporal punishment. The general question was followed by series of detailed ones asking if the specific forms of corporal punishment should be forbidden by law. It was important because knowing only general opinion, it may be unclear which specific behaviours should be forbidden in respondents' view.

In your opinion, should the following types of physical punishment used by parents towards their own children be forbidden by law? (summary of "yes" and "rather yes")

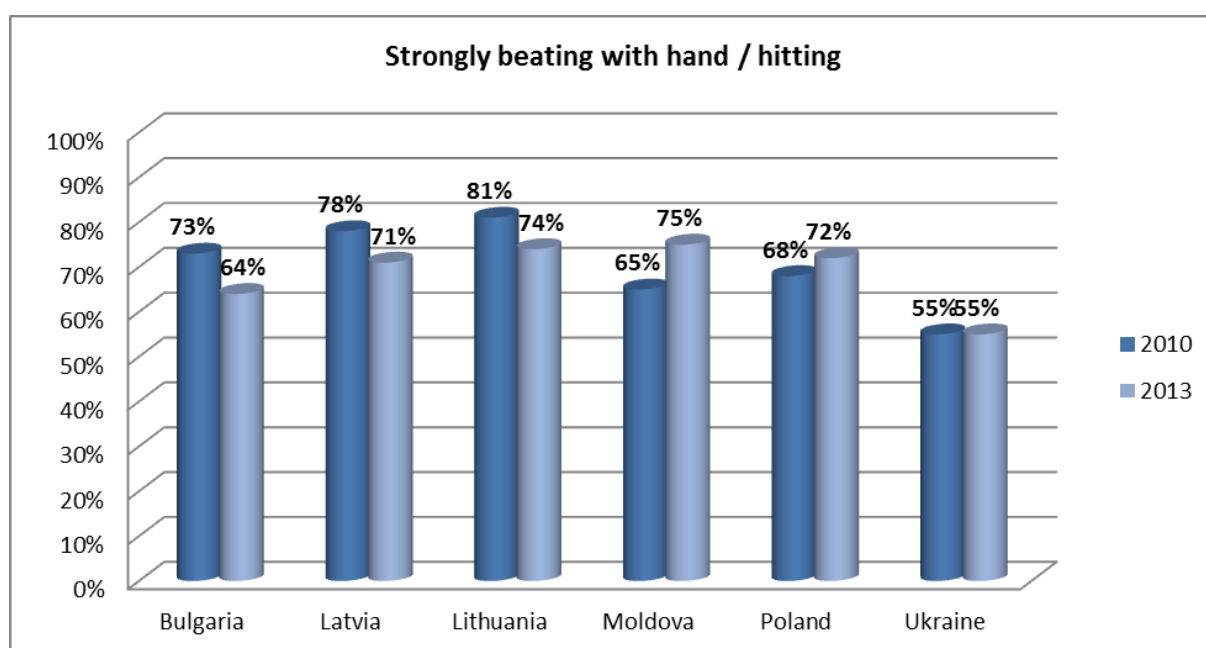
Out of five types of punishment included in this question, hitting or strongly beating with hand was considered as most despicable type of violence. In all countries the majority of study participants claimed that it should be banned (Fig. 15). In Moldova this view was shared by three out of four persons (75%) in 2013 and nearly as many in Lithuania, Poland and Latvia. Only in Bulgaria and Ukraine it was somewhat lower (64% and 55% respectively). The support for legal ban of such behaviour was in all countries higher than general view on forbidding the corporal punishment.

⁵ All data about legislation banning corporal punishment according to Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/>

Interestingly, even in the countries where overall support for legal ban was lower the condemn for beating is high.

What can be disturbing is the fact that conviction that hitting children should be banned dropped in last three years in three countries (Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania). It stayed at the same (low) level in Ukraine and grew in Moldova and Poland.

Fig. 15. Support for the legal ban of beating with hand (summary of “yes” and “rather yes” answers)

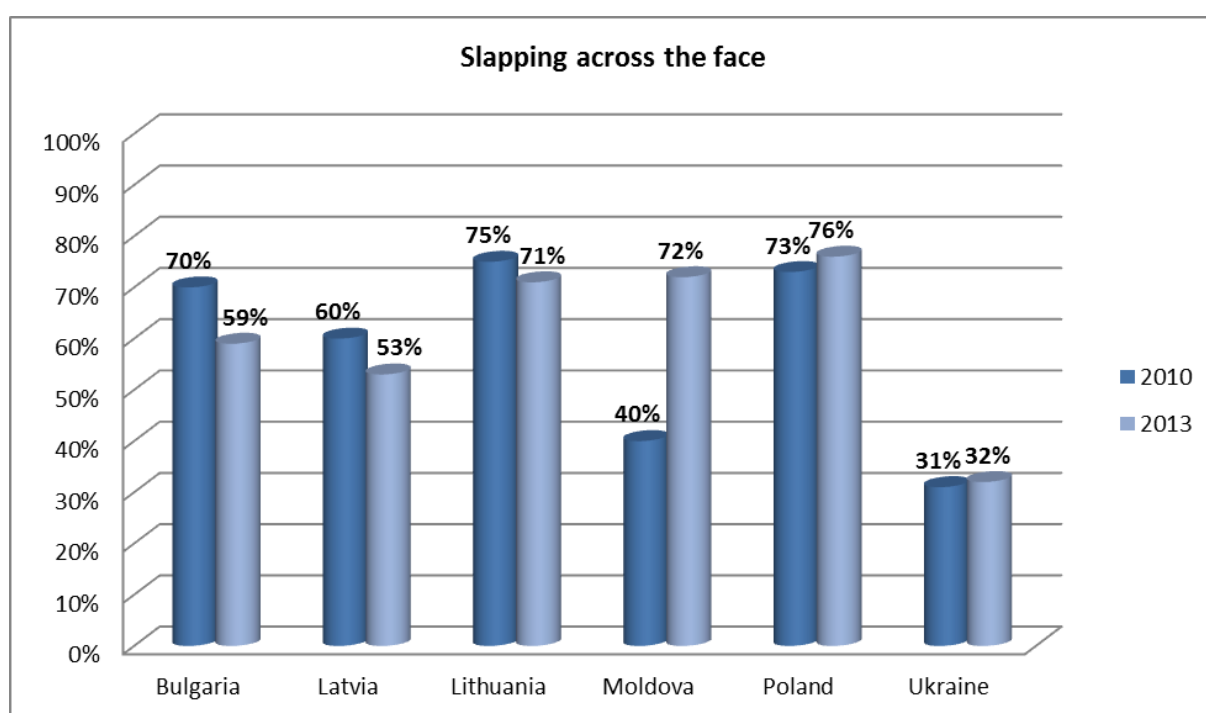


Slapping child across the face was another form of violence included in the question. It was also highly disapproved in most countries (53%-76%) with the exception of Ukraine where only around one in three adults (32%) supports legal ban for slapping in the face. This can be probably explained by the fact that this type of punishment is more prevalent and thus more socially acceptable in Ukraine than in other countries (see section 4.5). In the rest of countries the support was approximately as high as in the case of strong beating (in Poland it was even higher and reached 76% in 2013). In Latvia the support was somewhat lower (53%).

Changes in these figures in last three years were similar to these in the case of strong beating. In Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania the support for legal ban of slapping

across the face has decreased. In the remaining three countries the proportion has grown. The biggest change was observed in Moldova where the number of people supporting the legal ban of this type of punishment nearly doubled (from 40% in 2010 to 72% in 2013).

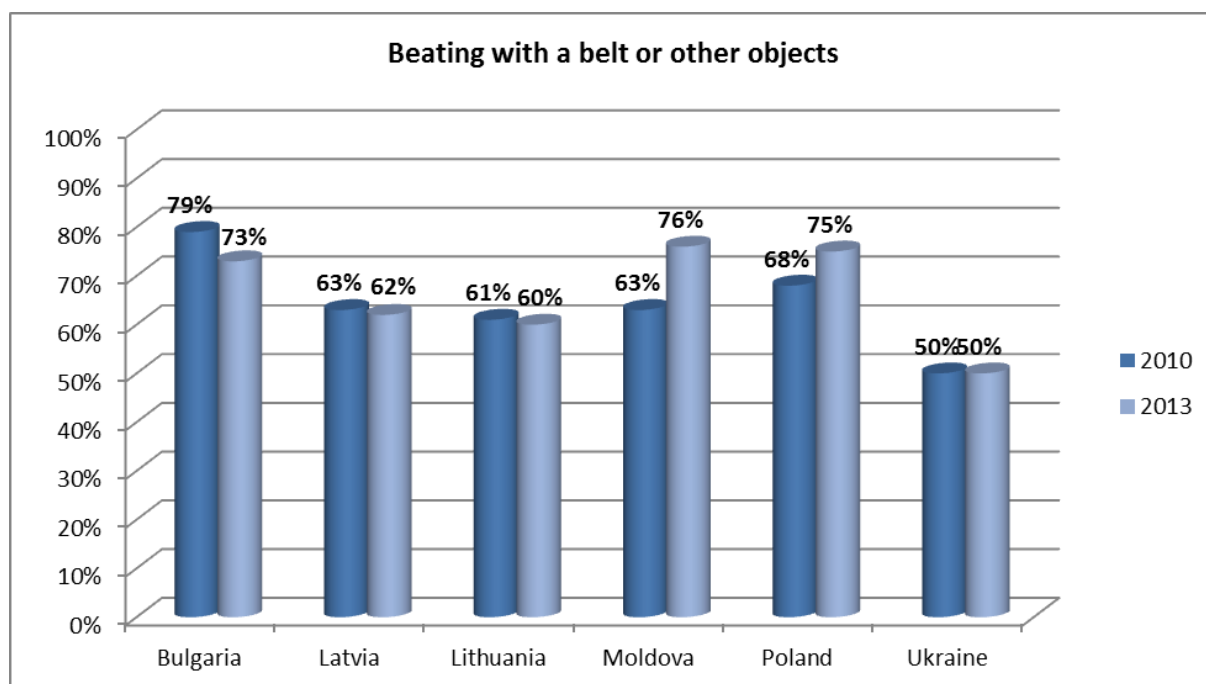
Fig. 16. Support for the legal ban of slapping across the face (summary of “yes” and “rather yes” answers)



Beating child with a belt or other object was third behaviour investigated. Also this parental practice was highly disapproved (Fig. 17). In four countries the support for forbidding it was higher than in the case of slapping across the face (Moldova, Latvia, Bulgaria, Ukraine) in the remaining two (Poland, Lithuania) the situation was opposite. Nevertheless in every country under study the majority of the respondents expressed support for such ban.

In three out of six states the views concerning beating with belt or another object have not changed significantly over time. In Bulgaria the support for the ban dropped by 6 per cent points whereas in Moldova and Poland more people wanted to forbid it in 2013 than in 2010.

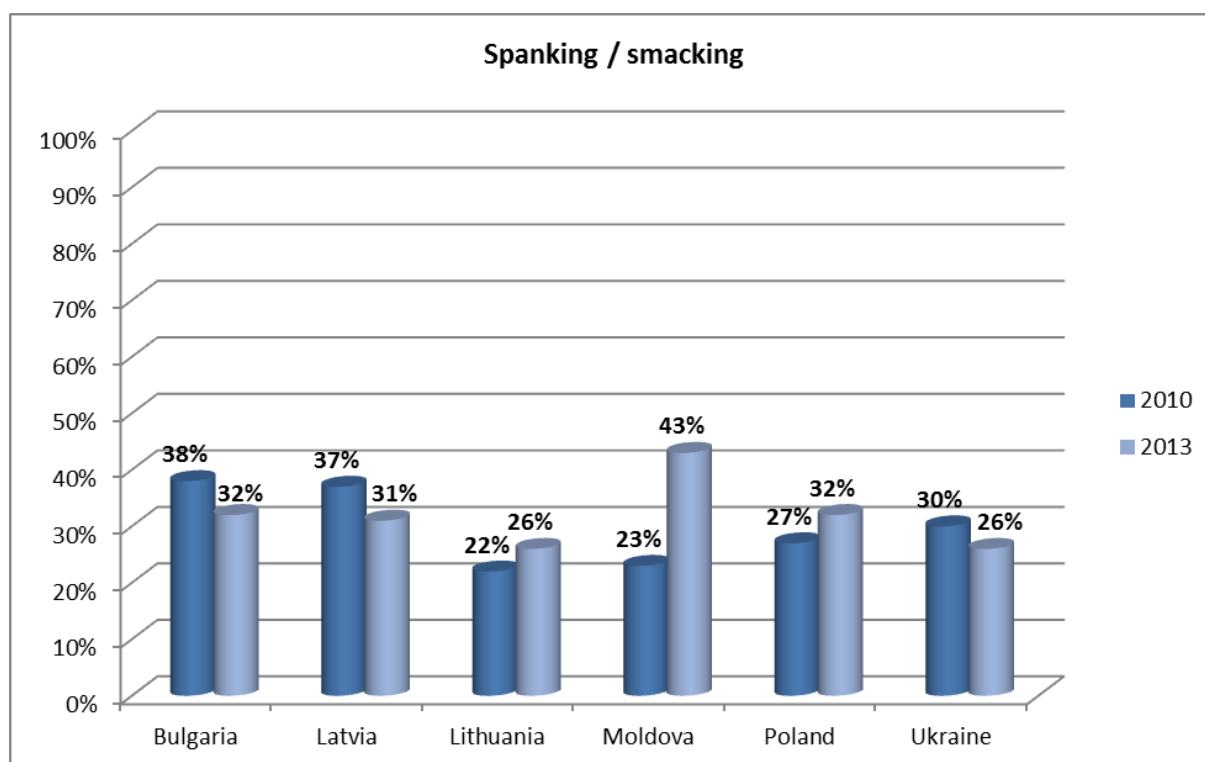
Fig. 17. Support for the legal ban of beating with a belt or another object (summary of “yes” and “rather yes” answers)



The last question from this section concerned spanking. As one could expect the findings in this regard were different than in the last three cases. In all countries the minority of respondents expressed the support for legal ban on spanking. In 2013 the proportion of adults who shared this opinion ranged from about one fifth (26% in Lithuania and Ukraine) to one third of population (31% in Latvia, 32% in Poland and Bulgaria). Only in Moldova it was higher and in 2013, 43% of Moldovan agreed that spanking should be forbidden by law. It is worth noting that in all countries the support for ban on spanking was lower than general support for ban of corporal punishment which may imply that for about 20-30% of people spanking is not considered as “corporal punishment”.

Also in the case of spanking the trend in last three years was not coherent across all six countries. The support for the ban rose in Lithuania, Poland and – most significantly – in Moldova. On the other hand, in Bulgaria, Latvia and Ukraine the view that spanking should be forbidden became less prevalent.

Fig. 18. Support for the legal ban of spanking (summary of “yes” and “rather yes” answers)



Summing up, in all countries there was high level of general support for legal ban of corporal punishment although it varied between the countries. In four out of six countries the proportion of proponents of such ban exceeded 50%.

When asked whether some specific forms of abuse should be forbidden the opinions tend to differ. Whereas acts such as beating with an object or a belt, beating by hand and slapping across the face are seen as deserving legal ban by vast majority in most countries, spanking is perceived as being less reprehensible. The support for the legal ban of spanking only in one country was higher than 40%. This means that in most countries there is a substantial group of people who support legal ban for severe violence towards children but are against the ban of spanking.

In

4.4 Institutions perceived as assistance providers

Apart from the questions regarding criminalisation of several forms of child abuse the study also inquired about help and assistance which can be granted to the victims of such abuse. The following question was applied in order to assess different institutions which can act in difficult situations:

In your opinion, to what extent can children who suffer from family abuse/violence count on assistance from the following institutions?

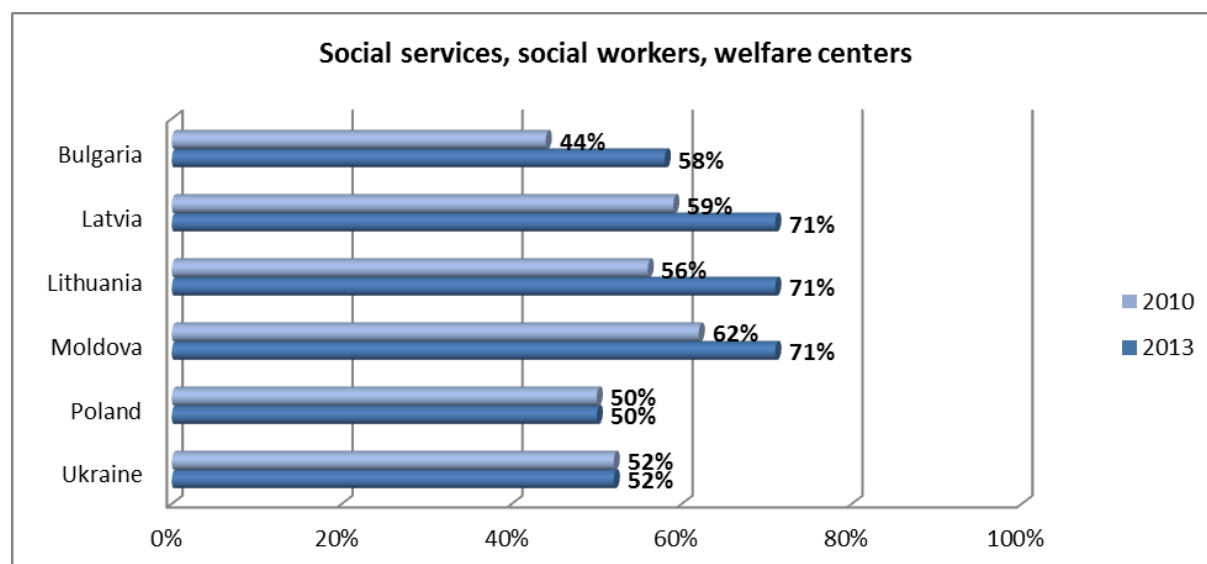
The respondents could answer using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 meant, that abused child cannot count on any assistance, whereas 5 meant that the child can definitely count on assistance from a given institution. There were 5 institutions presented to the participants: school or kindergarten, social services, police, justice system, non-governmental organizations.

Generally, in all cases and in all countries positive assessments prevailed over negative ones. There were also substantial proportions of those who gave “neutral” mark (i.e. 3) as well as those who chose “hard to say” option (for detailed percentages see Table 5 in Annex). In both cases it may be the opinion of people who never had contact with these institutions (or with problematic situations) and therefore restrained from assessment.

The highest trust was placed in social service, social workers and welfare centers (fig. 19). In all six countries at least 50% of all respondents felt that these institutions provide help in situations of abuse. In Lithuania, Latvia and Moldova this view was held by as many as 71% in 2013. Relatively the lowest trust was in Poland (50%).

In four out of six countries under study one can observe major positive changes since 2010. In Bulgaria, Moldova, Latvia and Lithuania the assessment of social service improved by 9 to 15 per cent points. In the latter two countries (Poland and Ukraine) the opinion of respondents did not change since 2010.

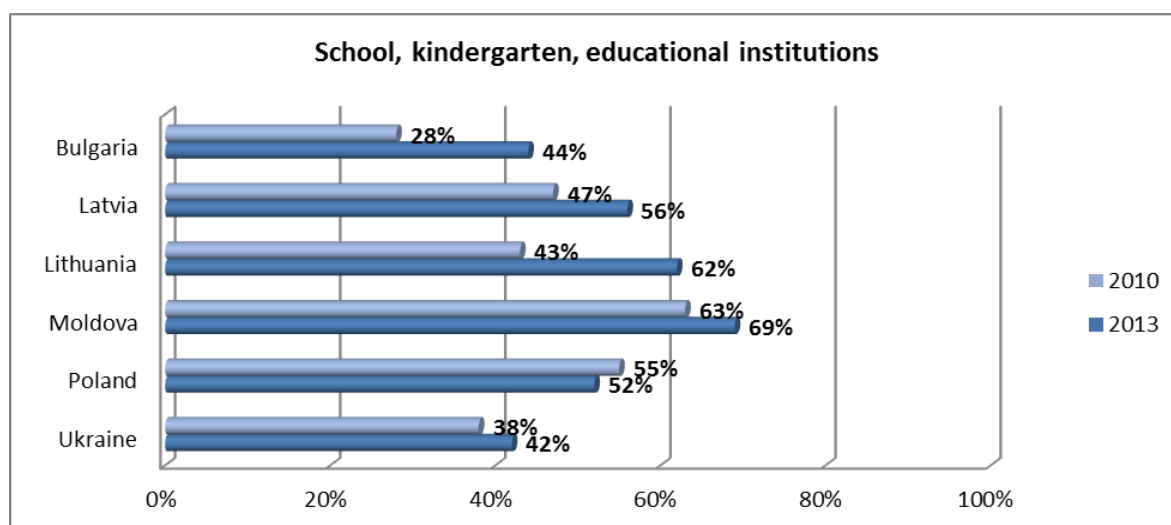
Fig. 19. Percentage of people who think that abused children can count on the assistance from social service (marks 4 and 5 added).



The helping capacity of school and education system is assessed differently in individual countries, although in 2013 it was even more diverse (fig. 20). Schools got the best rating in Moldova (69%) and Lithuania (63%), middle in Poland (52%) and Latvia (56%). Generally in all countries it was scored somewhat lower than social service with the exception of Poland where the opposite is true.

Since 2010, in almost all countries school gained on trust. The greatest change was noted in Bulgaria and Lithuania (by 16 and 19 per cent points). Again, different trend was found in Poland where schools were a little bit more trusted in 2010.

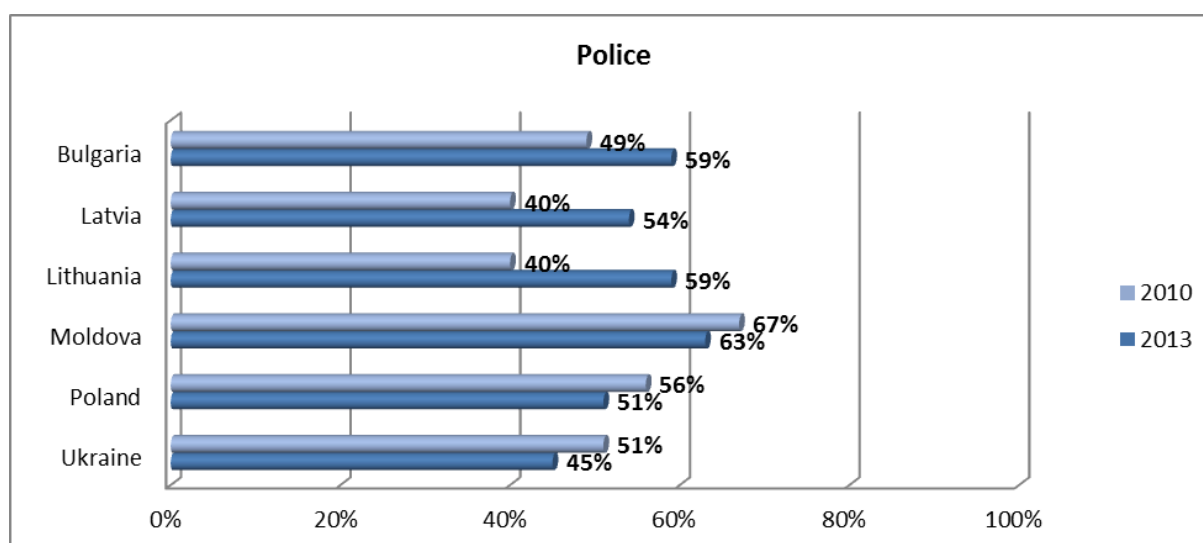
Fig. 20. Percentage of people who think that abused children can count on the assistance from school (marks 4 and 5 added).



The proportion of people who thought that children-victims of abuse can count on help of the police ranged from 45% in Ukraine to 63% in Moldova. The scale of trust in the police was in most countries similar to the trust in schools. Only in Bulgaria the police was assessed substantially better than schools.

In three countries, the trust in the police rose over the last three years (Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania) and in other three it was lower than in 2010 (Moldova, Poland and Ukraine).

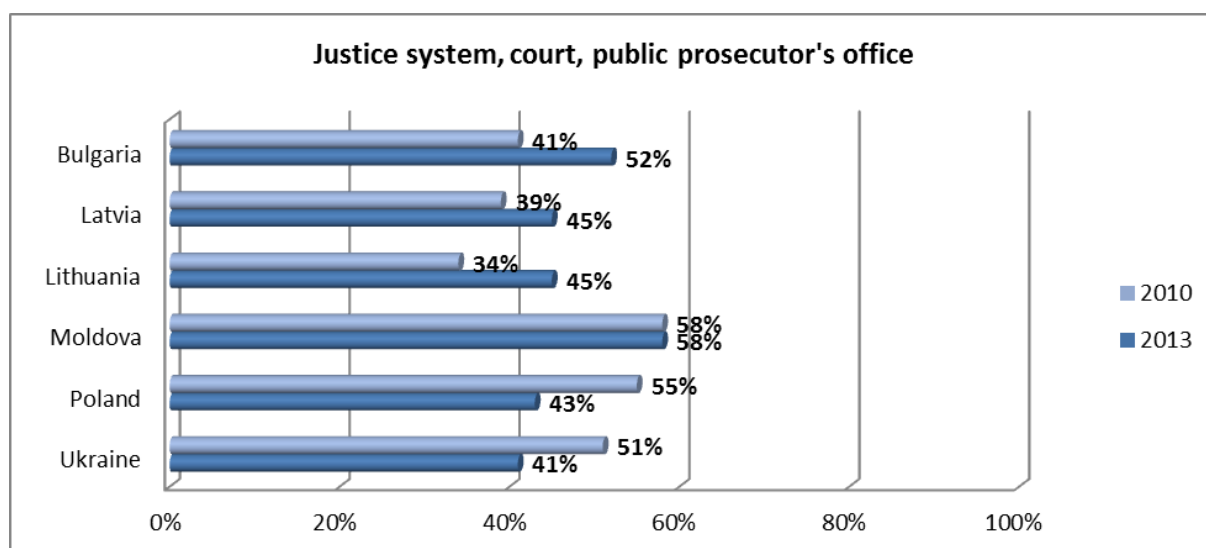
Fig. 21. Percentage of people who think that abused children can count on the assistance from police (marks 4 and 5 added).



The institutions of justice system (court, public prosecutor's office etc.) were in all countries assessed slightly lower than police (fig. 22). The highest rank was noted in Moldova (58%) and Bulgaria (52%). In the rest of the countries it ranged from 41% to 45%.

The trends in particular countries were analogical to those in the case of police. In Baltic states and in Bulgaria these institutions were perceived more positively than in 2010 and in Poland and Ukraine the trust was lower than three years ago. In Moldova no change was observed.

Fig. 22. Percentage of people who think that abused children can count on the assistance from justice system (marks 4 and 5 added).



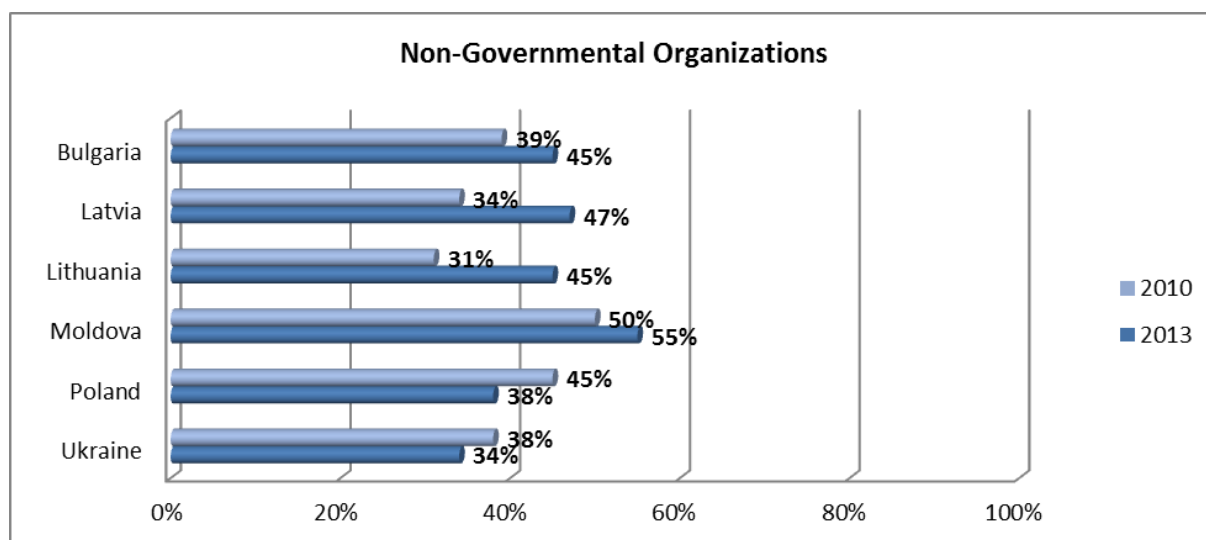
Relatively lower trust was expressed towards the non-governmental organisations. In 2013 it was the lowest in Ukraine where only 34% of respondents assessed that children can count on their help and the highest in Moldova (55%) (Fig. 23).

However, it should be noted that these lower assessment rates may be caused by lack of knowledge while might be not acquainted with institutions like NGOs in general. In fact, in comparison with four previous categories of institutions significantly higher proportions of respondents chose "hard to say" option which may indicate that they were not able to state opinion on NGOs.

Nevertheless, in four out of six countries the situation improved over the least four years and the assessment of NGOs performance in the area of helping children is

better in 2013. Only in Poland and Ukraine the opposite trend was visible and less people were likely to give NGOs high marks.

Fig. 23. Percentage of people who think that abused children can count on the assistance from NGOs (marks 4 and 5 added).



Generally, the highest trust was expressed towards social service and education system. The lowest trust was connected with NGOs. This can be caused by the belief that state-owned helping professions are most responsible for helping children. NGOs are assessed lower probably because they are still relatively new and unknown entities in the region.

The patterns for trust towards institutions varied across countries. For example, in Moldova high trust was expressed towards most of the institutions whereas in Ukraine most institutions were assessed lower. Also the changes since 2010 varied greatly: in Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania trust towards institutions rose in all cases whereas in Poland and Ukraine in most cases it decreased.

4.5 Child-rearing practices

The last but very important block of questions in our study concerned the actual treatment of children by the parents. We asked about different forms of corporal punishment but also other frequently used disciplinary actions (both including or not including violence) what enabled sensible comparison and provided wider picture of parental practices in countries involved in the study.

These questions were only asked to those respondents who declared themselves as parents (answered affirmatively to the question: "Do you have children?"). The proportion of parents in total sample ranged from 64% to 70% in 2010 study and from 61% to 72% in 2013 (see table 6 in Annex).

The following question was applied proceeded by ten forms of punishing children. Respondents could choose answer from following options: "never", "once", "several times", "often", "don't remember" or they could refuse to answer.

<i>Did you ever punish your child/children in the following manner?</i>
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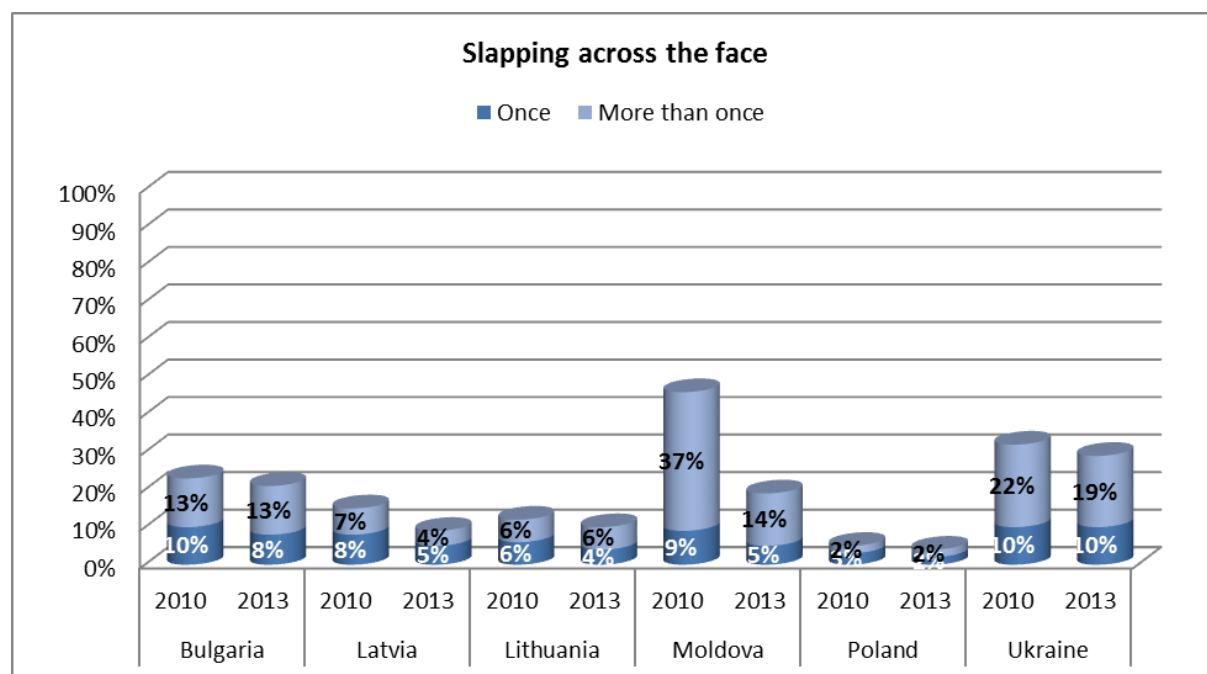
One should bear in mind that the question was asked about the whole life span. This means that theoretically no major changes between 2010 and 2013 should occur. Nevertheless in some cases, such diversions were observed. This can be attributed to changes in social awareness or to changes in recent parental behaviour which could have influenced answers.

For most countries the least applied form of punishment was slapping across the face (fig. 24). However, the diversity between countries was visible. While in Poland in 2010 together only 4% of parents has ever used such method, in Baltic states it was about 10%, in Moldova and Bulgaria more than 20% and in Ukraine nearly 30%. These differences can be probably partly attributed to the cultural differences and presumptions about the "traditional" forms of corporal punishment.

All countries have witnessed positive change in declarations since 2010. It is especially the case of Moldova where in 2010 nearly half of the parents (46%) declared that they have applied such punishment. In 2013 the proportion dropped by

more than a half to 19%. Also in Latvia the drop was substantial, in the rest of countries the proportion decreased by 1-3- per cent points.

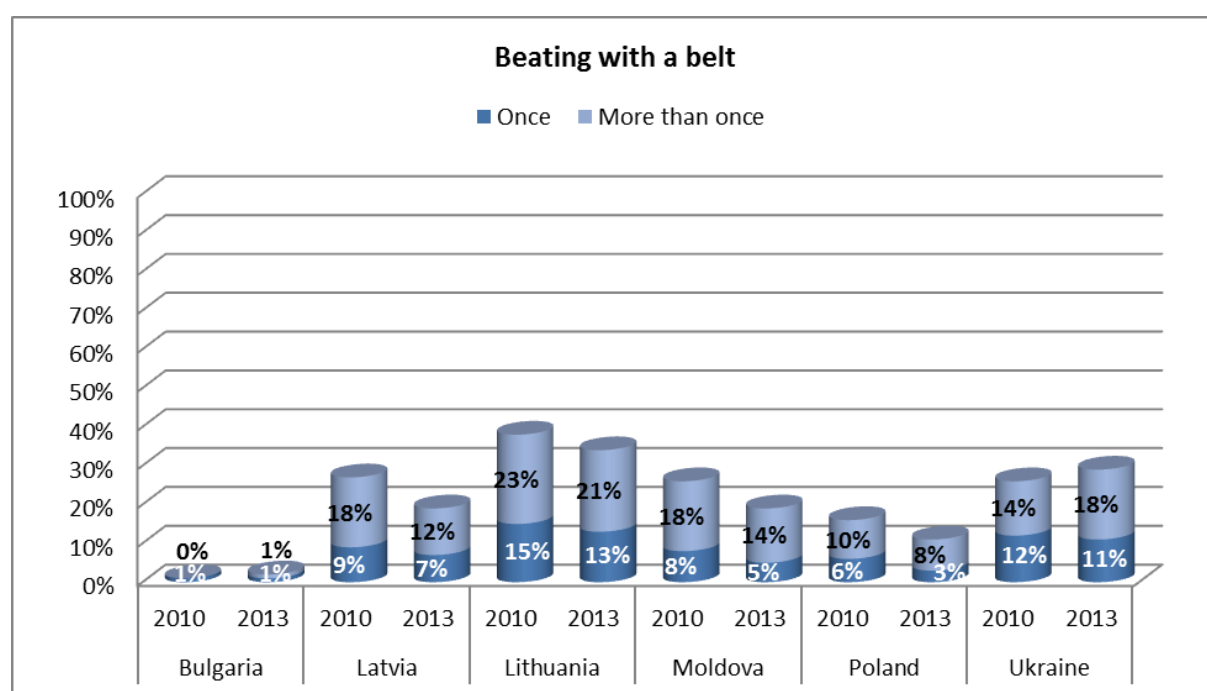
Fig. 24. Parents applying slapping children across the face



Another violent form of corporal punishment measured in the study was beating with a belt or another object (Fig. 25). Also with regards to this behaviour situation in particular countries was very diverse. In Lithuania more than one third of parents have ever beaten the child this way (34%) while in Bulgaria hardly anybody has declared such behaviour (2%). It is worth noting that in Lithuania, Latvia and Poland this form of punishment was more prevalent than slapping across the face, in Bulgaria the situation was opposite and in Moldova and Ukraine both forms were evenly common. Again cultural differences and child-rearing traditions may serve as explanation here.

When it comes to changes in three-years period, similarly to the case of slapping across the face in most countries the rates have decreased. Only in Ukraine the use of beating with the belt (or other object) as a punishment was declared more often in 2013 than in 2010.

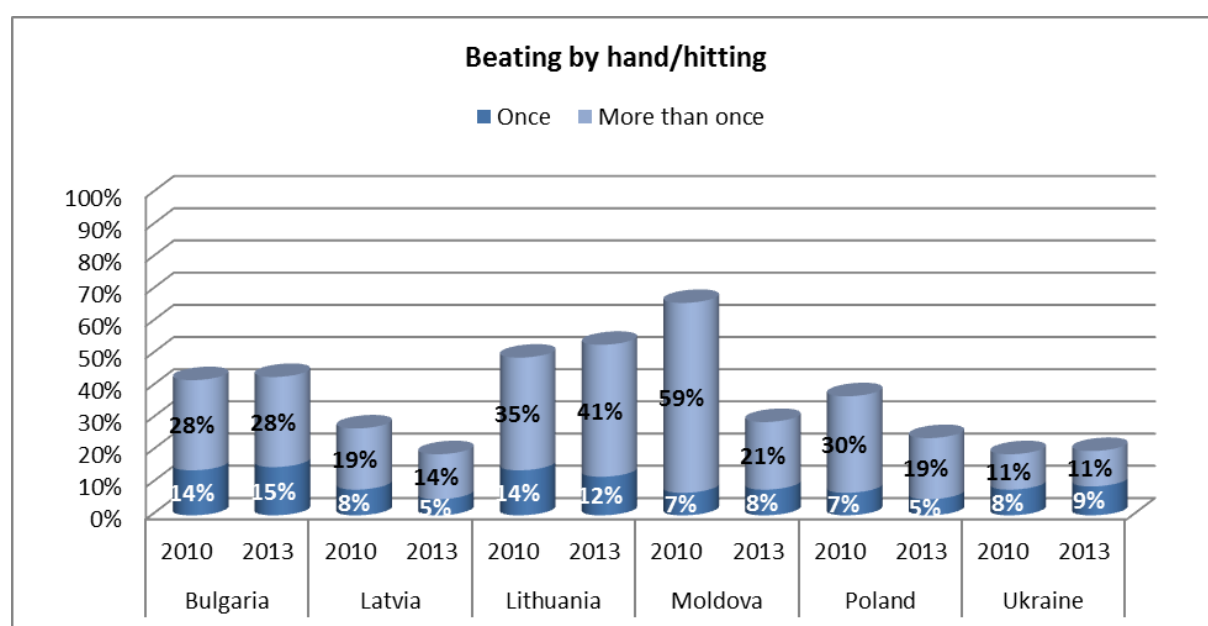
Fig. 25. Parents applying beating with a belt



Another form of corporal punishment was beating by hand or hitting without the use of objects (fig. 26). For most countries the incidence rates were higher than in last two cases. Even in the country where the lowest proportion of parents declared this practice in 2013 (Latvia) it was still 19% - nearly one in five parents. In Lithuania, more than half of parents (53%) admitted that they hit their children at least once. Interestingly, relatively low figure (20%) was found for Ukraine where beating by hand was less prevalent than beating with object or slapping across the face.

Trends in last three years were not consistent in that case. In Latvia, Poland and Moldova substantially less parents declared beating. In the three remaining countries (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Ukraine) a slight growth was noted.

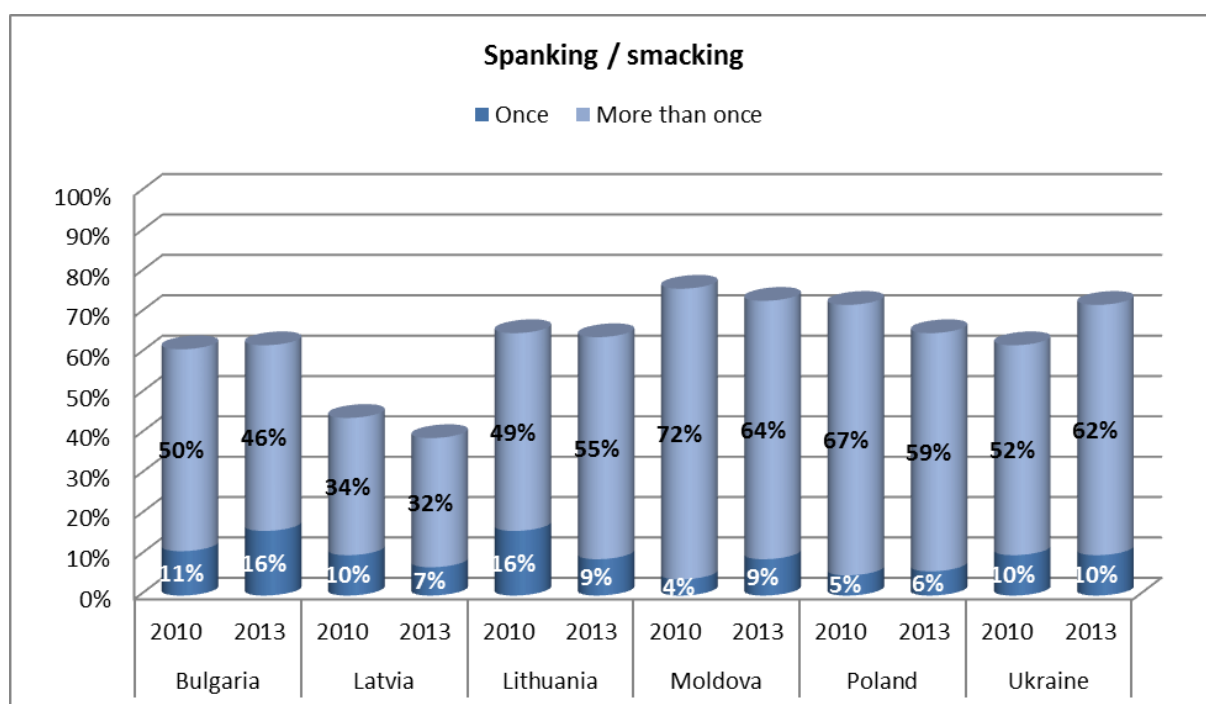
Fig. 26. Parents applying beating by hand



Spanking or smacking was the last form of punishment involving the use of physical violence included in the survey. As can be clearly visible from figure 27 it was also the form which was most often used by parents. In 2013 in all countries except Latvia together more than 60% has ever applied it. Vast majority of these parents used spanking more than once. The highest proportion was noted in Moldova (73%) and the lowest in Latvia (39%) which was distinguishing this country in the comparison.

In Bulgaria and Ukraine more parents declare use of spanking in 2013 than in 2010. In the remaining four countries a decrease was observed although the changes were not major in neither direction. The highest positive change was noted in Poland (by 7 per cent points) and highest negative change in Ukraine (by 10 per cent points).

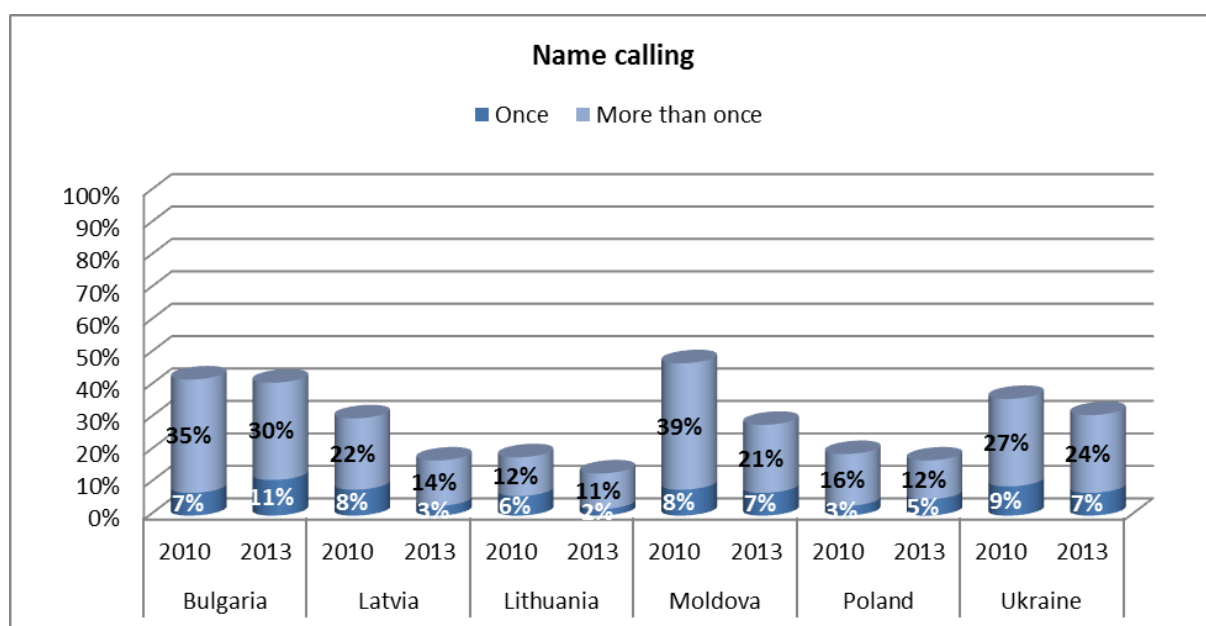
Fig. 27. Parents applying spanking



Apart from punishment forms involving physical violence we studied forms that can be described as emotional or psychical violence. First one of these was name calling i.e. the use of unpleasant words to describe children in order to insult or upset them. This form was in many countries relatively uncommon (fig. 28). In 2013 in calling names was less prevalent than beating by hand in all countries under study. The highest proportion was noted in Bulgaria (41%) and Ukraine (31%), the lowest in Lithuania (13%). The latter finding is interesting as Lithuania was at the same time the country with relatively high figures concerning corporal punishment.

Since 2010 the percentage of parents declaring the use of this form of verbal punishment towards their children decreased in all countries under study. In some countries the change was minimal (Bulgaria) in other more considerable (Moldova, Latvia).

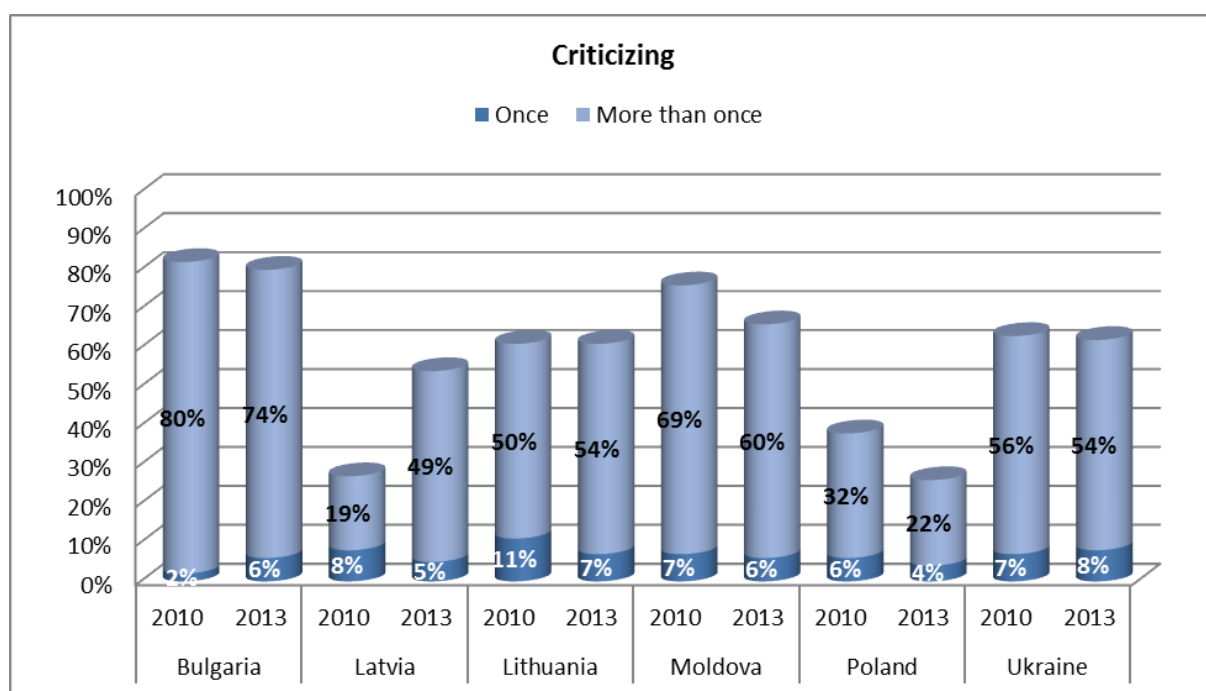
Fig. 28. Parents calling their children names



Less severe form of verbal punishment was described as criticizing. It was also more common in all six countries than name calling. Except for Poland, where the proportion was the lowest (26% in 2013), in all countries more than 50 per cent of population admitted that they criticize their children as a way of punishment. The highest figure was observed for Bulgaria (80%).

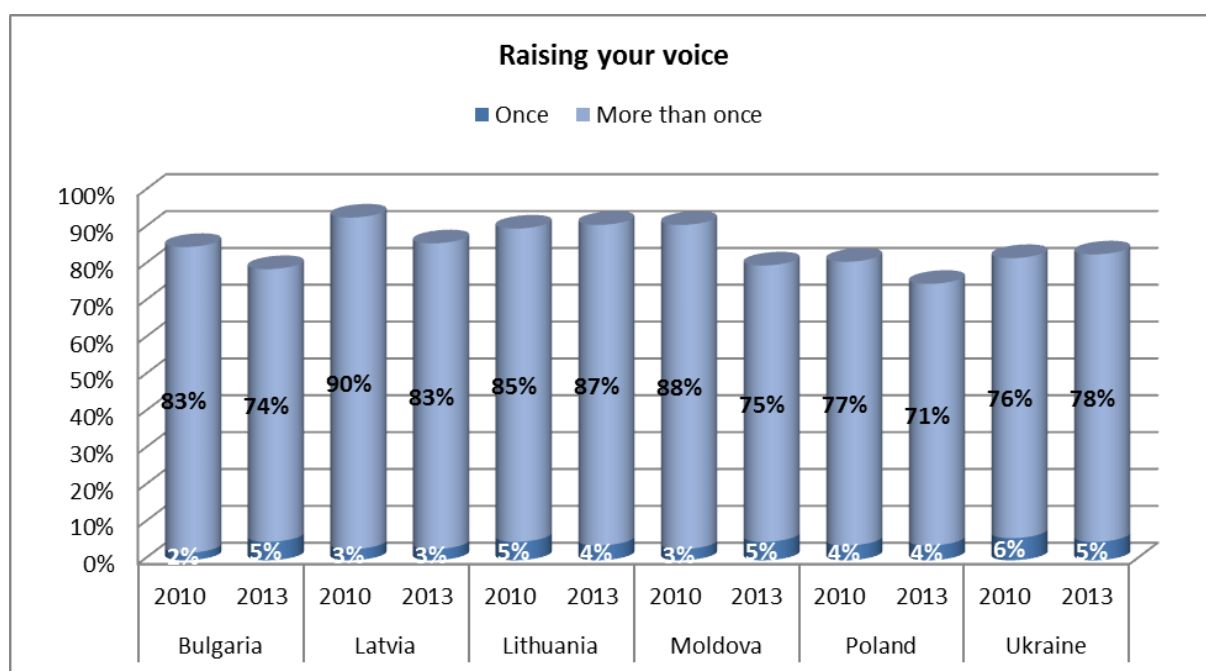
In most countries the proportions of parents criticizing their children have dropped. The interesting exception was found in Latvia where the percentage of parents criticizing rose significantly whereas in the case of name calling we saw a decrease in the same period in that country.

Fig. 29. Parents criticizing their children.



One can easily notice that raising voice was definitely the most widely used “punishing” method in all countries (Fig. 30). In all countries at least three fourths of population admitted that they had done it at least once. The figures in 2013 ranged from 75% for Poland to 91% in Lithuania. In four of the six countries the percentages were lower in 2013 than in 2010. Only in Lithuania and Ukraine they rose slightly over that time.

Fig. 30. Parents raising their voice at the child.



The last two forms of punishment under our study were „bans” applied on children i.e. the action of forbidding children to meet with friends (fig. 31) or to use certain devices or equipment (e.g. computer or television) (fig. 32). Both forms were relatively popular. The least common in 2013 was ban on meetings in Latvia (33%), the most popular: ban on devices in Ukraine (62%). The ban on devices was more popular than ban on meetings in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. Ban on meetings was applied more often in Bulgaria and Moldova. Generally, though two types of ban were applied by similar proportions of respondents in each country with a noticeable exception in Latvia where ban on devices was far more popular than ban on meetings.

Changes since 2010 underwent similarly for both types of bans in each country but differently across the countries. In Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova these forms of punishment became less popular whereas in Poland, Ukraine and Bulgaria they were used more often now than three years ago.

Fig. 31. Parents applying ban on meetings.

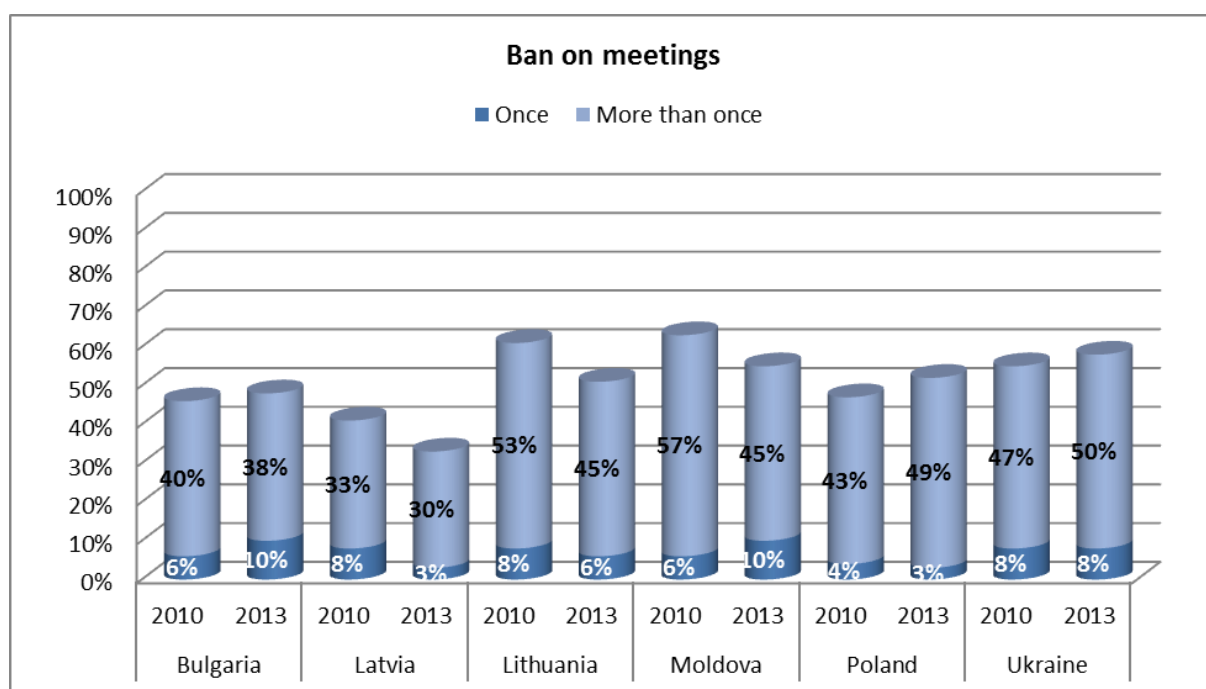
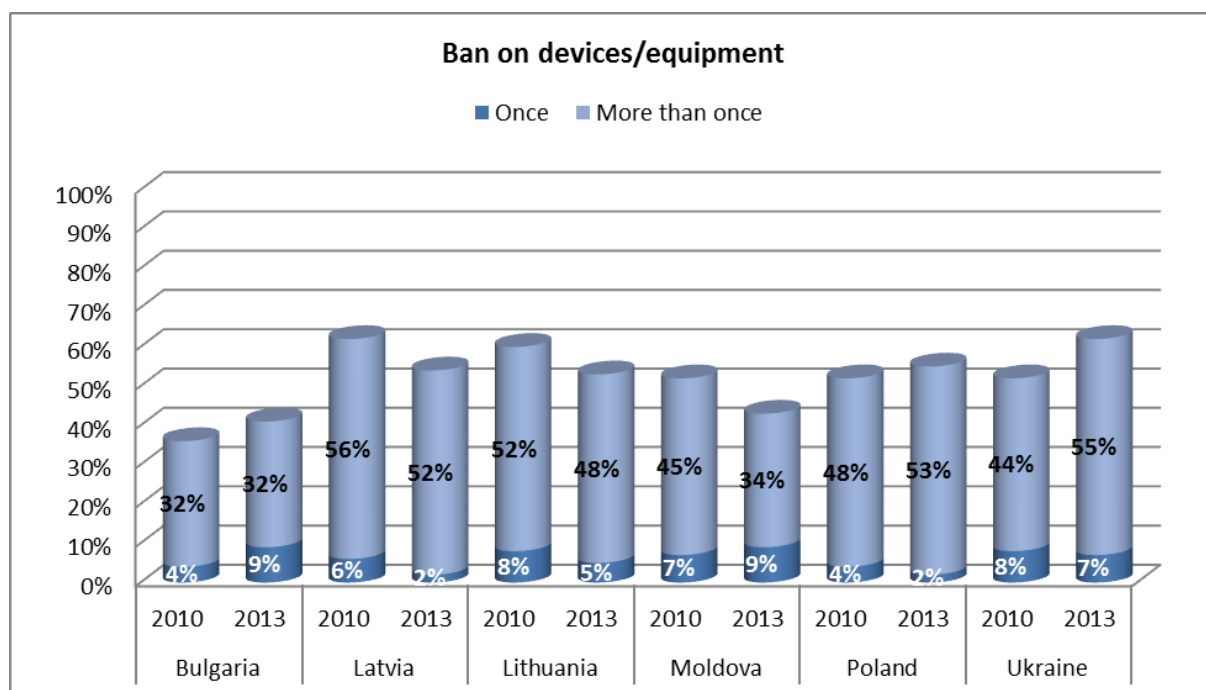
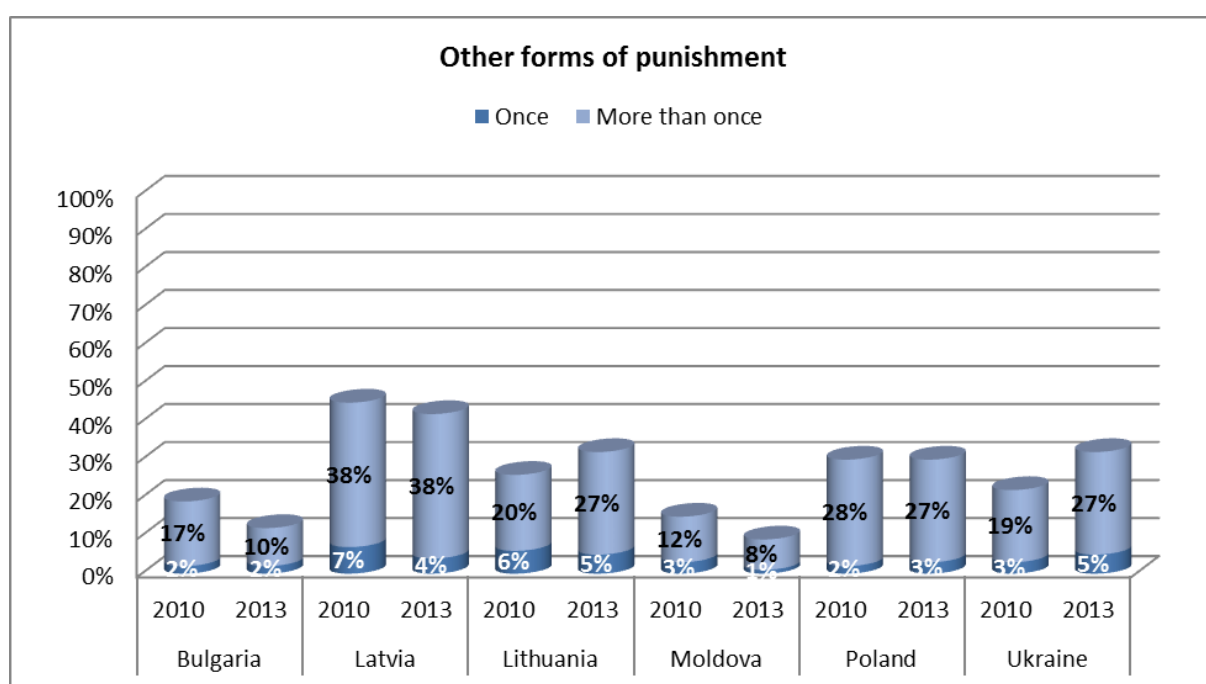


Fig. 32. Parents applying ban on the use of devices



Respondents participating in the study also had an opportunity to declare the use of other punishment methods (not listed above). In Bulgaria and Moldova only small minority (12% and 9% respectively) took advantage of this option which may mean that the list of 9 forms of punishment was to large extent exhaustive. In remaining four countries at least 30% choose this option which may lead to conclusion that in these countries more forms of punishing children are in use.

Fig. 33. Other forms of punishment

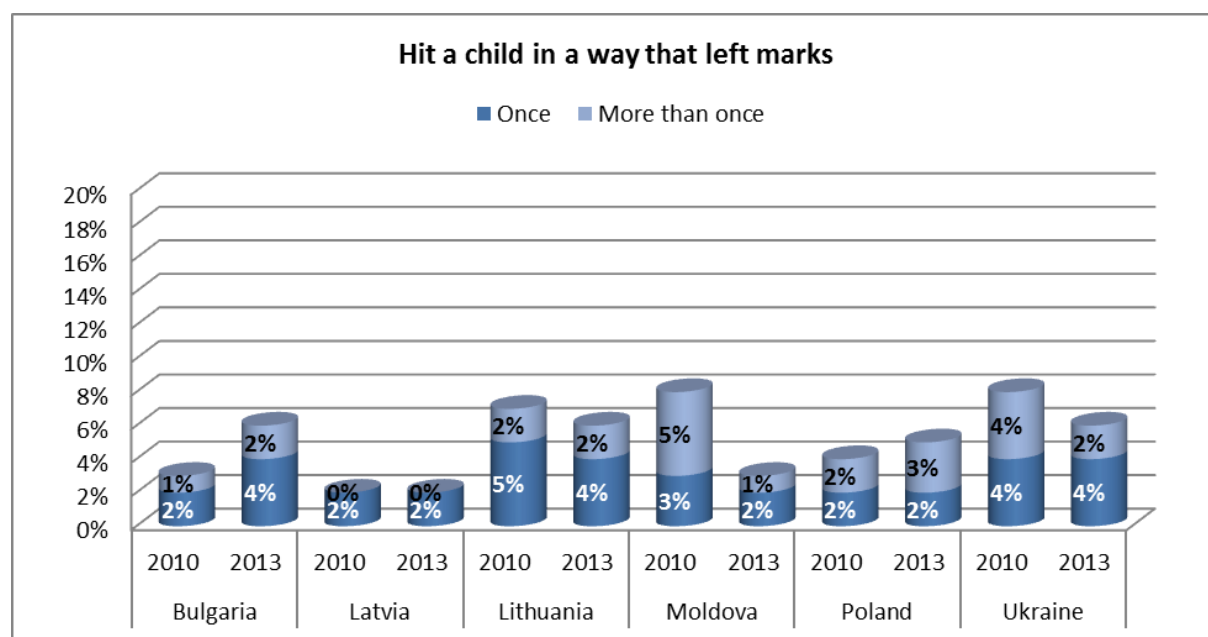


Expressions such as “beating” or “spanking” may be understood differently by particular respondents and consequently they may cover cases in which children are hurt mildly or severely. In order to examine the exact scale of severe maltreatment we asked about the cases in which beating left marks on the body. Again, respondents could choose answer from following options: “never”, “once”, “several times”, “often”, “don’t remember” or they could refuse answer.

Did you ever hit your child in a way that left marks (bruises, scratches) on his/her body?

The percentages of parents who answered affirmatively to this question was low and it should be noted that comparisons may not be precise in that case due to statistical limitations. From 2% to 4% of parents admitted that they have beaten their children severely once in their lifetime. Additionally from 1% to 3% declared that it happened many times (Fig. 34). In Latvia none of the respondents gave such answer.

Fig. 34. Parents hitting a child so that it left marks.



Summing these figures up, we can say that raising one's voice and slapping or spanking were forms of punishment most often applied in majority of countries. Criticizing and bans on meetings were used by about half of parents in most countries. Severe punishments both corporal (beating with an object, beating by hand, slapping in the face) and emotional (calling names) were used much less frequent although these findings varied from country to country – in some states particular severe forms of punishment were applied by disturbingly high proportion of parents. On the other hand, in this field positive changes were observed – e.g. slapping across the face and beating with and object became less often declared in three-year period in all of the countries in the study.

4.6 Country by country discussion

The report compares findings in international and temporal perspective. At the end, it would be useful to summarise findings in country by country manner which enables overall view of the

- **Bulgaria** – In Bulgaria people tended to assess negatively the overall situation of child abuse. With regards to nearly all forms of abuse high proportions of respondents stated that they occur more often than before. The declarations about the use of corporal punishment was also relatively high, especially when it comes to beating by hand. At the same time Bulgaria held the highest non-acceptance of corporal punishment (which remained stable in last 8 years) and high support for legal ban of different forms of corporal punishment. It may be speculated that the society in Bulgaria is polarised – there is a group that use corporal punishment extensively, it is known in general social perception and there is another (bigger) group opposing the use of corporal punishment.
- **Latvia** – In Latvia social perception of the problem do not differ much from average. The country is however distinguished by highest positive change in acceptance of the use of corporal punishment. In 8-years period the proportion of those accepting it dropped to only 2%. Similar trends could be noted with regards to the use of corporal punishment. The use of nearly all forms of punishment decreased since 2010 and Latvia is the country with lowest percentage of parents who had ever used spanking out of all six countries. It could be summarised that Latvia saw the most significant progress in the field of child abuse prevention and it would be worth examining what factors lead to that.
- **Lithuania** – Unfortunately, in last 8 years the acceptance of the use of corporal punishment in Lithuania dropped and the proportion of those who allow for such punishment rose to the highest level from all of the countries. Also the support for legal ban of corporal punishment decreased since 2010 and was the lowest in comparison to other countries. In Lithuania also the proportions of parents who used harsh punishment methods were relatively

high – in 2013 there was the highest rate of parents applying beating a child with belt or another object and beating by hand. Available data indicate that situation in Lithuania have worsen in recent years and further steps should be undertaken to investigate this situation.

- **Moldova-** The situation in Moldova is interesting. In 2010 study, this country had highest rates of the use of many negative childrearing practices. However, in 2013 study there was a radical drop in these figures. For example beating children by hand and slapping children across face dropped by more than 50% in relation to 2010. Also the support for legal ban of different forms of corporal punishment rose in last years. It is consistent with the social perception of the problem – Moldovans are most likely to admit that different forms of child abuse occur less and less often. If this measurements are accurate (no major methodological changes were identified but some statistical error connected with sampling can never be excluded) it may mean that some substantial changes, especially in attitudes towards the problem of child abuse have taken place in last years.
- **Poland –** In Poland, people assess the situation relatively well, which is consistent with parents' declarations. Both for beating by hand and beating with a belt there was a decrease in parents' practices in last three years and slapping across the face was in Poland nearly non-existent. Frequency of spanking also decreased, although this rate is still relatively high. Also attitudes towards corporal punishment changed positively in recent years. In summary, one can say that Poland is witnessing mild, but stable development in the area of child abuse prevention.
- 1. Ukraine –** The situation in Ukraine remained, in many aspects, the same as in 2010. The attitudes towards corporal punishment have not changed much and acceptance of corporal punishment is neither high nor low. What can be alarming is relatively low support for legal ban of parental behaviours such as slapping across the face and beating with a belt. These practices are also relatively more often declared by Ukrainian parents. Especially with regards to slapping across face, Ukraine tends to distinguish from other countries.

Annex

Table 1. How do you estimate changes in the incidence of the following parental behaviours, which have been occurring in your country in the last 10 years?

Corporal punishment of children						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	36%	22%	25%	17%	18%	33%
Remains unchanged	24%	28%	23%	31%	31%	36%
Occurs less often	23%	28%	39%	46%	44%	16%
Hard to say	17%	21%	13%	6%	8%	15%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	34%	26%	22%	31%	22%	34%
Remains unchanged	22%	27%	25%	24%	36%	35%
Occurs less often	24%	24%	39%	35%	36%	17%
Hard to say	20%	23%	14%	10%	6%	14%

Lack of parental care						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	59%	64%	61%	39%	43%	43%
Remains unchanged	22%	21%	16%	31%	31%	32%
Occurs less often	12%	4%	13%	26%	21%	12%
Hard to say	7%	11%	11%	4%	6%	12%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	50%	56%	56%	54%	44%	47%
Remains unchanged	20%	21%	20%	21%	35%	28%
Occurs less often	17%	9%	13%	21%	17%	14%
Hard to say	14%	14%	11%	4%	4%	11%

Sexual abuse of children						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	44%	42%	57%	33%	43%	37%
Remains unchanged	17%	18%	11%	17%	27%	30%
Occurs less often	10%	4%	6%	22%	14%	11%
Hard to say	29%	36%	26%	28%	16%	22%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	28%	35%	39%	42%	42%	48%
Remains unchanged	17%	18%	14%	21%	28%	21%
Occurs less often	17%	5%	8%	17%	15%	11%
Hard to say	38%	42%	29%	21%	15%	20%

Yelling						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	59%	49%	41%	29%	30%	44%
Remains unchanged	26%	31%	34%	38%	47%	38%
Occurs less often	6%	10%	14%	29%	17%	7%
Hard to say	9%	10%	10%	4%	6%	11%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	58%	40%	39%	39%	30%	44%
Remains unchanged	23%	30%	32%	28%	48%	39%
Occurs less often	9%	11%	18%	25%	17%	9%
Hard to say	10%	19%	12%	7%	5%	8%

Calling names, verbal humiliation						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	52%	43%	41%	31%	28%	42%
Remains unchanged	27%	30%	29%	36%	36%	37%
Occurs less often	9%	13%	14%	28%	27%	8%
Hard to say	12%	13%	16%	6%	9%	12%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Occurs more often	50%	38%	41%	39%	29%	40%
Remains unchanged	24%	30%	26%	27%	39%	38%
Occurs less often	12%	11%	17%	26%	24%	11%
Hard to say	14%	22%	16%	8%	8%	11%

Table 2. Do you agree with the following statements that corporal punishment of children?

2005						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
May be used whenever the parent believes it is going to be effective	7%	12%	6%	11%	13%	13%
Should not be used in general, but is justified in some situations	38%	45%	52%	42%	50%	44%
Should never be used	47%	39%	40%	37%	35%	40%
Hard to say	8%	4%	1%	11%	2%	3%

2009						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
May be used whenever the parent believes it is going to be effective	11%	12%	5%	5%	11%	12%
Should not be used in general, but is justified in some situations	35%	45%	56%	37%	49%	51%
Should never be used	50%	39%	38%	55%	38%	35%
Hard to say	4%	4%	1%	4%	2%	2%

2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
May be used whenever the parent believes it is going to be effective	7%	5%	11%	16%	16%	9%
Should not be used in general, but is justified in some situations	34%	51%	55%	52%	47%	40%
Should never be used	56%	41%	33%	31%	34%	38%
Hard to say	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%	12%

2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
May be used whenever the parent believes it is going to be effective	5%	2%	13%	5%	9%	11%
Should not be used in general, but is justified in some situations	35%	44%	56%	43%	41%	41%
Should never be used	54%	51%	30%	50%	47%	41%
Hard to say	6%	3%	1%	1%	3%	7%

Table 3. Do you think that physical punishment of one's own children should be forbidden by law?

2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	7%	15%	19%	16%	11%	8%
Rather not	18%	37%	32%	26%	30%	22%
Rather yes	30%	26%	24%	33%	32%	26%
Definitively yes	36%	17%	20%	23%	21%	26%
Hard to say	9%	6%	6%	2%	6%	18%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	5%	17%	24%	11%	5%	11%
Rather not	17%	28%	35%	21%	28%	26%
Rather yes	30%	22%	19%	25%	36%	29%
Definitively yes	36%	22%	18%	41%	24%	23%
Hard to say	13%	11%	3%	2%	7%	11%

Table 4. In your opinion, should the following types of physical punishment used by parents towards their own children be forbidden by law?

Beating with a belt or other objects						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	16%	10%	11%	11%	18%	17%
Rather not	2%	18%	23%	25%	11%	21%
Rather yes	10%	24%	24%	24%	15%	19%
Definitively yes	69%	39%	37%	39%	53%	31%
Hard to say	3%	8%	5%	1%	2%	11%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	19%	15%	12%	8%	15%	19%
Rather not	5%	18%	23%	14%	6%	24%
Rather yes	9%	22%	19%	23%	21%	25%
Definitively yes	64%	40%	41%	53%	54%	25%
Hard to say	3%	5%	5%	2%	4%	7%

Slapping across the face						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	14%	14%	8%	20%	18%	25%
Rather not	10%	19%	11%	38%	6%	33%
Rather yes	18%	27%	25%	22%	11%	13%
Definitively yes	52%	33%	50%	18%	62%	18%
Hard to say	7%	8%	7%	1%	2%	10%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	17%	16%	9%	9%	16%	30%
Rather not	16%	23%	15%	19%	4%	31%
Rather yes	17%	20%	17%	30%	17%	17%
Definitively yes	42%	33%	54%	42%	59%	15%
Hard to say	8%	8%	5%	1%	3%	7%

Strongly beating with hand / hitting						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	13%	9%	6%	11%	18%	18%
Rather not	9%	8%	8%	24%	12%	17%
Rather yes	20%	23%	21%	30%	16%	21%
Definitively yes	53%	55%	60%	35%	52%	34%
Hard to say	5%	5%	5%	1%	2%	11%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	18%	13%	7%	6%	14%	20%
Rather not	12%	12%	14%	17%	10%	19%
Rather yes	18%	16%	18%	27%	20%	28%
Definitively yes	46%	55%	56%	48%	52%	27%
Hard to say	6%	3%	5%	1%	4%	7%

Spanking / smacking						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	19%	18%	35%	26%	33%	27%
Rather not	32%	37%	36%	50%	36%	33%
Rather yes	21%	18%	9%	13%	17%	17%
Definitively yes	17%	19%	13%	10%	10%	13%
Hard to say	10%	7%	6%	1%	4%	10%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Definitely not	24%	25%	38%	21%	28%	28%
Rather not	35%	38%	30%	34%	36%	38%
Rather yes	16%	13%	10%	23%	18%	16%
Definitively yes	16%	18%	16%	20%	14%	10%
Hard to say	10%	7%	5%	2%	4%	7%

Table 5. In your opinion, to what extent can children who suffer from family abuse/violence count on assistance from the following institutions? (Please answer using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means, that an abused child cannot count on any assistance, whereas 5 means that the child can definitely count on assistance from a given institution.)

School, kindergarten, educational institutions						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	15%	9%	11%	12%	5%	16%
2	25%	11%	15%	7%	12%	13%
3	23%	27%	24%	17%	23%	23%
4	17%	25%	19%	18%	30%	22%
5	11%	22%	24%	45%	25%	16%
Hard to say	10%	7%	6%	1%	6%	10%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	10%	9%	8%	13%	6%	16%
2	15%	8%	9%	5%	10%	14%
3	21%	20%	17%	11%	28%	22%
4	30%	24%	22%	20%	33%	26%
5	14%	32%	40%	49%	19%	16%
Hard to say	10%	8%	5%	2%	4%	7%

Social services, social workers, welfare centers						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	8%	7%	6%	9%	8%	10%
2	17%	7%	11%	7%	13%	9%
3	22%	19%	21%	19%	24%	18%
4	28%	28%	21%	21%	27%	27%
5	16%	31%	35%	41%	23%	25%
Hard to say	9%	8%	6%	3%	6%	10%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	6%	5%	6%	8%	7%	11%
2	9%	4%	6%	8%	14%	12%
3	18%	15%	12%	10%	27%	19%
4	35%	27%	23%	25%	32%	27%
5	23%	44%	48%	46%	18%	25%
Hard to say	10%	6%	4%	3%	3%	6%

Police						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	9%	12%	11%	10%	6%	14%
2	15%	13%	16%	6%	12%	9%
3	18%	27%	24%	16%	21%	18%
4	30%	21%	20%	24%	28%	25%
5	19%	19%	20%	43%	28%	26%
Hard to say	9%	8%	8%	1%	5%	8%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	6%	8%	8%	11%	7%	16%
2	10%	7%	10%	9%	12%	15%
3	17%	23%	19%	16%	26%	19%
4	35%	22%	20%	20%	30%	22%
5	24%	32%	39%	43%	21%	23%
Hard to say	9%	8%	5%	1%	4%	6%

Justice system, court, public prosecutor's office						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	10%	12%	20%	13%	5%	13%
2	15%	14%	18%	9%	12%	8%
3	21%	24%	19%	19%	23%	18%
4	23%	23%	18%	21%	30%	26%
5	18%	16%	16%	37%	25%	25%
Hard to say	12%	11%	9%	2%	5%	10%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	7%	10%	15%	14%	8%	15%
2	12%	11%	14%	9%	15%	17%
3	17%	21%	18%	15%	28%	18%
4	25%	20%	14%	24%	25%	20%
5	27%	25%	31%	34%	18%	21%
Hard to say	12%	13%	8%	4%	6%	8%

Non-Governmental Organizations						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	8%	9%	14%	14%	8%	16%
2	13%	10%	19%	9%	13%	11%
3	21%	27%	19%	13%	24%	18%
4	22%	21%	16%	21%	27%	21%
5	17%	13%	15%	29%	18%	17%
Hard to say	18%	19%	16%	15%	11%	16%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
1	7%	8%	12%	15%	8%	16%
2	9%	7%	10%	6%	15%	14%
3	20%	16%	16%	11%	32%	19%
4	24%	24%	20%	19%	25%	18%
5	21%	23%	25%	36%	13%	16%
Hard to say	19%	23%	16%	14%	8%	17%

Table 6. Do you have children? ("yes" answers)

	2010	2013
Bulgaria	64%	69%
Latvia	68%	72%
Lithuania	64%	67%
Moldova	71%	69%
Poland	64%	61%
Ukraine	64%	65%

Table 7. Did you ever punish your child/children in the following manner?

Slapping across the face						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	62%	82%	84%	50%	90%	59%
Once	10%	8%	6%	9%	3%	10%
Several times	12%	6%	5%	34%	1%	20%
Often	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Don't remember	12%	2%	2%	3%	3%	6%
Refusal	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	65%	88%	87%	74%	92%	64%
Once	8%	5%	4%	5%	2%	10%
Several times	10%	4%	6%	13%	1%	18%
Often	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Don't remember	11%	1%	2%	5%	1%	5%
Refusal	2%	1%	0%	2%	4%	2%

Beating with a belt						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	97%	72%	56%	71%	77%	66%
Once	1%	9%	15%	8%	6%	12%
Several times	0%	16%	20%	17%	8%	13%
Often	0%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%
Don't remember	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	4%
Refusal	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	4%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	95%	76%	64%	77%	84%	69%
Once	1%	7%	13%	5%	3%	11%
Several times	1%	11%	20%	13%	7%	16%
Often	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Don't remember	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Refusal	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%

Name calling						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	47%	66%	77%	46%	73%	54%
Once	7%	8%	6%	8%	3%	9%
Several times	30%	19%	11%	32%	14%	24%
Often	5%	3%	1%	7%	2%	3%
Don't remember	9%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%
Refusal	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	5%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	45%	79%	84%	68%	80%	61%
Once	11%	3%	2%	7%	5%	7%
Several times	23%	12%	10%	17%	9%	21%
Often	7%	2%	1%	4%	3%	3%
Don't remember	10%	3%	2%	3%	1%	5%
Refusal	3%	1%	0%	2%	3%	3%

Criticizing						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	13%	70%	34%	22%	54%	31%
Once	2%	8%	11%	7%	6%	7%
Several times	37%	17%	38%	46%	25%	32%
Often	43%	2%	12%	23%	7%	24%
Don't remember	3%	2%	3%	2%	5%	3%
Refusal	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	16%	43%	38%	30%	67%	36%
Once	6%	5%	7%	6%	4%	8%
Several times	30%	37%	41%	35%	18%	33%
Often	44%	12%	13%	25%	4%	21%
Don't remember	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Refusal	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%

Beating by hand/hitting						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	49%	70%	47%	32%	55%	74%
Once	14%	8%	14%	7%	7%	8%
Several times	24%	17%	32%	49%	22%	9%
Often	4%	2%	3%	10%	8%	2%
Don't remember	7%	2%	2%	1%	5%	4%
Refusal	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	4%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	47%	79%	46%	66%	70%	75%
Once	15%	5%	12%	8%	5%	9%
Several times	23%	12%	37%	17%	14%	9%
Often	5%	2%	4%	4%	5%	2%
Don't remember	7%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Refusal	3%	2%	0%	3%	3%	2%

Ban on meetings						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	40%	52%	35%	33%	46%	35%
Once	6%	8%	8%	6%	4%	8%
Several times	26%	29%	40%	36%	27%	31%
Often	14%	4%	13%	21%	16%	16%
Don't remember	10%	6%	2%	2%	5%	5%
Refusal	5%	1%	2%	1%	2%	5%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	38%	61%	46%	40%	43%	36%
Once	10%	3%	6%	10%	3%	8%
Several times	24%	25%	36%	28%	25%	33%
Often	14%	5%	9%	17%	24%	17%
Don't remember	11%	5%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Refusal	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%

Ban on devices/equipment						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	48%	36%	32%	41%	39%	38%
Once	4%	6%	8%	7%	4%	8%
Several times	18%	40%	38%	30%	27%	29%
Often	14%	16%	14%	15%	21%	15%
Don't remember	12%	3%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Refusal	4%	0%	3%	1%	3%	4%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	42%	38%	43%	48%	41%	34%
Once	9%	2%	5%	9%	2%	7%
Several times	20%	37%	35%	20%	24%	33%
Often	12%	15%	13%	14%	29%	22%
Don't remember	13%	5%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Refusal	3%	2%	1%	5%	2%	2%

Spanking / smacking						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	30%	54%	29%	22%	23%	31%
Once	11%	10%	16%	4%	5%	10%
Several times	39%	32%	43%	45%	41%	35%
Often	11%	2%	6%	27%	26%	17%
Don't remember	7%	1%	3%	2%	3%	4%
Refusal	2%	0%	2%	1%	3%	3%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	29%	59%	35%	24%	30%	24%
Once	16%	7%	9%	9%	6%	10%
Several times	31%	30%	51%	37%	38%	41%
Often	15%	2%	4%	27%	21%	21%
Don't remember	7%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Refusal	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	2%

Raising your voice						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	11%	5%	5%	9%	15%	13%
Once	2%	3%	5%	3%	4%	6%
Several times	49%	63%	50%	41%	44%	39%
Often	34%	27%	35%	47%	33%	37%
Don't remember	3%	1%	3%	0%	2%	2%
Refusal	2%	0%	2%	1%	2%	3%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	13%	11%	9%	16%	20%	14%
Once	5%	3%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Several times	34%	56%	46%	38%	36%	39%
Often	40%	27%	41%	37%	35%	39%
Don't remember	5%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Refusal	2%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%

Other forms of punishment						
2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	39%	45%	54%	50%	51%	34%
Once	2%	7%	6%	3%	2%	3%
Several times	11%	32%	16%	9%	17%	14%
Often	6%	6%	4%	3%	11%	5%
Don't remember	30%	9%	12%	31%	16%	25%
Refusal	12%	2%	9%	4%	3%	19%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	50%	51%	58%	63%	55%	41%
Once	2%	4%	5%	1%	3%	5%
Several times	6%	33%	22%	4%	13%	13%
Often	4%	5%	5%	4%	14%	7%
Don't remember	29%	5%	7%	8%	11%	20%
Refusal	9%	2%	4%	19%	4%	14%

Table 8. Did you ever hit your child in a way that left marks (bruises, scratches) on his/her body?

2010						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	90%	96%	90%	88%	93%	86%
Once	2%	2%	5%	3%	2%	4%
Several times	1%	0%	2%	5%	1%	4%
Often	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Don't remember	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%	4%
Refusal	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
2013						
	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Never	86%	97%	92%	92%	91%	90%
Once	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Several times	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Often	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Don't remember	6%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Refusal	1%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%