

The influence of LF18 on the sense of European citizenship

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Abstract

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the European identity. Most studies in the field of European identity have focused on characteristics such as age, gender and occupational position (Pichler, 2008). Whilst some research has been carried out on the European Capitals of Culture, there is a relative paucity of studies investigating the impact of these European mega-events on the European identity. This paper analyses the impact of hosting the European Capital of Culture on the sense of European citizenship among the residents in the case of Leeuwarden. The central research question in this research is as follows: Does a European mega-event as the Capital of Culture in Leeuwarden influence the sense of European citizenship among the citizens in comparison to the citizens of Groningen? The following sub-questions will be used to answer this question: Do citizens of Groningen or Leeuwarden have a higher sense of European citizenship? What influences the sense of European citizenship? A sample of 275 residents from Leeuwarden and Groningen and a more representative quota sample of 98 residents from Leeuwarden and Groningen are analysed using ordinal regression and multinomial regression. The regression models show that in the population no relation between place of residence and sense of European citizenship exists. There is no significant difference between Groningen and the hosting city Leeuwarden. A relation between experiencing LF18 positively and sense of European citizenship does exist.

Keywords: European identity, sense of European citizenship, European Capital of Culture.

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Introduction

Europe is engaged in a search for identity (D'Haenens, 2005). This in response to forces as globalisation, which are weakening national power (Olausson, 2010). In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the European identity. The sense of a common identity can give more force to the project of European construction, because a political idea will be more effective when it is carried by shared desires (Todorov & Bracher, 2008). However, extraordinary events such as the Brexit, seem to be part of a series of current political stories in which ideas of progress in global integration are overturned (Andrew Gardner, 2017). The paradox of a search for a European identity to give more force to the European construction while events as the Brexit overturn ideas of progress in global and therefore EU integration results in the European identity being a major area of interest. Albeit, a Dutch exit (Nexit) is after the Brexit less probable. According to TNS Nipo (2016) a decrease of supporters of a Nexit was seen after the Brexit. Nevertheless, populist parties are still getting support. These often anti-Europe parties and the expected large populist wave have not succeeded for now, but a large amount of Dutch residents still feel that the Netherlands should leave the European Union (EU) (Lanting, 2017). These divided opinions result in people having different perceptions on the European identity. Most studies in the field of European identity have focused on characteristics such as age, gender and occupational position (Pichler, 2008). Whilst some research has been carried out on the European Capitals of Culture, there is a relative paucity of studies investigating the impact of these European mega-events on the European identity.

The European Capitals of Culture are regarded as the most popular European cultural event (Mittag, 2008). Mega-events as the European Capitals of Culture create jobs and increase wages in the construction sector and other sectors. Also, they attract additional flows of tourists to the hosting city (Steiner et al., 2015). However, a mega-event may lead to problems for low income residents. Mega-events tend to deepen existing divides among residents (Hall and Hodges, 1998; Malfas et al., 2004). Hosting the European event has its advantages and disadvantages. Therefore it is possible that for some residents it may cause more connectedness with the EU. This may influence their affinity with the European Identity. However, as aforementioned, much uncertainty exists about the relation between hosting a European mega-event and European identity.

European identity is often defined as sense of European citizenship (Singh, 2009). In the standard Eurobarometer (2017) every spring and autumn citizens of the 28 EU Member

States, five candidate countries and Turkey are questioned if they feel they are a citizen of the EU, and to what extent. The questionnaire also addresses if the citizens of the participating countries feel European in addition to their own nationality. Other questions on the public opinion in the EU survey address for example main concerns among EU citizens, trust in the Union's institutes and the image of the Union. The European Values Study (EVS) is conducted every nine years for an ever increasing amount of participating countries. In the 2008 survey the European Identity is addressed by asking to what geographical unit the respondents feel they belong to in the first and second place. The European Identity thus can broadly be defined as sense of European citizenship. Since the definition and measuring method of sense of European citizenship vary per study, it is important to clarify how the term is measured in this paper. In this paper, the extent to which one feels like a citizen of the EU (Eurobarometer, 2017), feels European next to Dutch (Eurobarometer, 2006) and feels one belongs to Europe as geographical unit in the first or second place (European Value Study, 2008) is used to measure sense of European citizenship.

This paper analyses the impact of hosting the European Capital of Culture on the sense of European citizenship among the residents in the case of Leeuwarden. Throughout this paper the term 'LF18' will be used to refer to European Capital of Culture Leeuwarden 2018. The impact will be tested by comparing the residents of Leeuwarden with the residents of Groningen, a non-hosting city. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between hosting a European mega-event and the sense of European citizenship among the residents. The hypothesis that will be tested is that hosting a European mega-event causes a higher sense of European citizenship for its residents than for residents living in a non-hosting city. The central research question in this research is as follows: Does a European mega-event as the Capital of Culture in Leeuwarden influence the sense of European citizenship among the citizens in comparison to the citizens of Groningen? The following sub-questions will be used to answer this question: Do citizens of Groningen or Leeuwarden have a higher sense of European citizenship? What influences the sense of European citizenship?

The first section of this paper will examine existing theories in the field of European identity and European mega-events. In the next section the methodology used for this study will be discussed. The third section presents the findings of the research, in the context of the theory. The paper ends with conclusion and reflection.

Theory

To understand the impact of a European mega-event on the European identity or sense of European citizenship, one must understand the concept of European identity. The European identity is a collective identity for all European citizens. Collective identity is often associated with a nation-state. However, collective identity can equally refer to cities, to regions or groups. Collective identity has been an issue in Europe, that is concerned with the problem of a European identity that is seen as lacking or necessary (Eder, 2009). Identity can become a problem when there is no identity. In situations of crisis and turbulence, when established ties of social cohesion are eroding or breaking down, a collective identity can be part of the solution. A collective identity gives the impression that all individuals are equal in the imagined community (Stråth, 2002). The collective mode of identity is about identification, formation of a common 'We' (Mouffe, 1995). Identities are constructed in the intersection between self-images and images of the 'Other' (Stråth, 2002). In complex societies as the EU there is an increasing need for collective identities. As Eder (2009) stated, the more a human society is differentiated, the more it needs a collective identity. According to the functionalist argument concerning collective identity it is necessary to create bonds which oblige citizens to pay taxes, to send their children to schools or to die for their political entity. A common factor – a sense of some community – obliges people to accept the social norms imposed upon them (Ibid).

The concept of a collective European identity is introduced on the European political agenda in 1973 (Delanty, 1995). A sense of a collective identity can give more force to the project of European construction, because a political idea will be more effective when it is carried by shared desires (Todorov & Bracher, 2008). However, the effects on European feelings of belonging were unintended in the wake of European Economic Community politics to improve economic structural cohesion within the polity. More intentional European identity politics were guided by the European Commission in the 1980s. The development of European symbols like the flag and the anthem are connected to the idea of a European citizenship. These identity politics can be an attempt to speed up the implementation of a European identity (Shore, 2000).

The European identity is overlapping with national identities (Stråth, 2002). However, national identities are overlapping with collective identities (Eder, 2009). It is too simple to put the European identity against national identities. Europe is an element of national and other identifications. However, at the same time Europe is different and separate from national and other identifications. Stråth (2002) states that Europe is both 'We' and the 'Other'. Within the

various nations in Europe there is not one but several views of Europe. Although one discourse on Europe might be predominating in a country, different attitudes towards Europe depend on factors as age, gender and class (Ibid). To research the European identity among citizens, the term 'sense of European citizenship' is often used (Singh, 2009). Every half year the predominating discourse is measured for each country with the Eurobarometer (European commission, 2017). Every nine years the European Value Survey is conducted, which gives a more detailed view of the predominating discourse in the EU and each country (EVS, 2015).

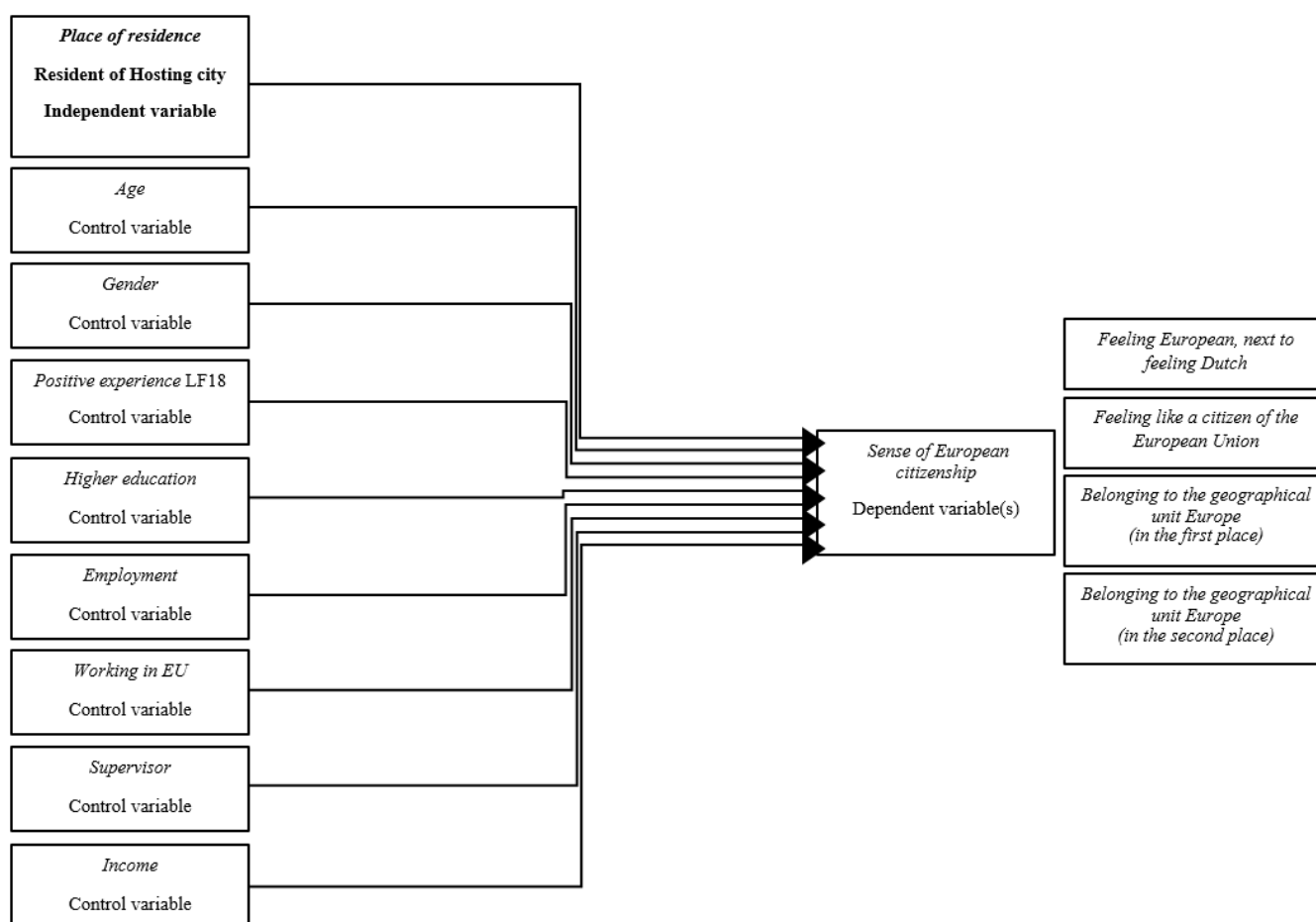
The European Capitals of Culture were founded in 1985 and are now regarded as the most prestigious European cultural event (Mittag, 2008). Throughout this paper the term 'ECOC' will also be used to refer to the European Capitals of Culture. The city is awarded the title for the preparation of special cultural events. These special cultural events should be an opportunity to strengthen European cultural cooperation and should encourage a sustainable dialogue at the European level (Dragičević et al., 2015). Comparable series of European cultural events have never generated such a large expenditure as the European Capitals of Culture (Palmer, 2004). Mega-events create jobs and increase wages in the construction sector. Due to spill-over effects in other sectors these increases can be seen as well. Mega-events such as ECOC attract additional flows of tourists, require major infrastructural investments and influence the housing market and land values (Steiner et al., 2015). When the event has led to improvements of public spaces and public transportation systems, urban renewal, creation of additional jobs and the availability of new customers for businesses, this may have a positive impact on the life satisfaction of the citizens (Steiner et al., 2015). Herrero et al. (2006) noted that the mega-event ECOC is of remarkable importance as city nomination makes headlines on national and European level. The positive effects for the hosting city of the ECOC event could have a positive influence on the discourse on Europe of the citizens within the hosting city. However, for the case of Maribor 2012, one of the basic goals of the event was to enhance the local identities of the city, not the European identity (Dragičević et al., 2015). In addition, the literature on hosting major sport events has shown negligible economic benefits for mega-events (Kavetsos and Szymanski, 2010). The ECOC event has rarely been analysed in the economic literature (Mittag, 2008). What has been analysed are for example the Residents' Perception of social benefits and costs of the event by Dragičević et al. (2015) and the effects of the event on the life satisfaction of the citizens by Steiner et al. (2015). The results of the first research showed that residents expected more social benefits than social costs of the event and agreed that the event had positive impacts primary on the promotion of the country of the hosting city, as well as on community cultural life and image in general which were consistent

with the events' aims. The respondents did not agree that the event improved quality of their life or city infrastructure. Also, they were undecided about the positive impacts on employment and income, personal sense of pride or enhancement of community identity. Respondents with higher incomes assigned higher ratings to social benefits and were less aware of negative impacts. The results of Steiner et al. (2015) show a negative and significant effect of hosting an ECOC on the life satisfaction of the regional population. Steiner et al. (2015) also show that it might be the case that hosting an ECOC has an impact on single economic indicators such as tourism or construction and that it does not have a significant net impact on a region's economic development reflected by GDP per capita growth. They argue that dissatisfaction during the event may be due to the high levels of public expenditure, increases in housing prices, criminality, disruptions and the influx of tourists in connection with the hosting of this mega-event. Many of these negative effects are likely to fall to a substantial amount on lower income groups. Such groups are more affected by higher rents and crime while at the same time they are less likely to attend the cultural events produced by the ECOC event (Frey, 2003). A possible increase in life satisfaction of higher income persons as a result of the cultural event may be overshadowed by the loss of lower income groups. Losses in life satisfaction loom larger than gains. In addition, the unemployed are not profiting from attending the event the same as the employed profit. Also, more highly educated individuals suffer less from an ECOC, considering that also the more highly educated individuals tend to attend cultural events more often (Steiner et al., 2015). The perception of citizens on the effects of ECOC thus differ and is influenced by different factors. Age, employment status, income and education level are among these factors (Dragičević et al., 2015; Steiner et al., 2015). Pichler (2008) found that the following characteristics have significant impacts on identification with Europe: gender, age, education, social class (occupational position) or urban–rural differences. Men, people under the age of 60, the better educated, people living in urban areas and members of the higher social classes are those who dominantly identify with Europe.

Previous research has shown that age, gender and class influence the attitude to Europe and the integration project (Stråth, 2002). It has also previously been observed that age, employment status, income and education level are factors that influence the perceptions of citizens on the effects of the European mega-event ECOC (Dragičević et al., 2015; Steiner et al., 2015). The study of Pichler (2008) shows the significant impact of the factors gender, age, education, social class (occupational position) or urban–rural differences on ones identification with Europe. This paper argues that hosting a European mega-event has an positive impact on the sense of European citizenship of the residents of the hosting city. Figure 1 shows the

conceptual model. This model consists of the factors that were found by previous research and mentioned above as control variables and the variable Place of residence, which determines if one is a resident of the hosting city Leeuwarden. Also the control variable Positive experience LF18 is added, if Place of residence does not influence the sense of European citizenship because the event also influences the citizens of a nearby city, this variable might still show a relation between the European mega-event and sense of European citizenship. The variable Worked in another EU country is also added because of a presumable effect on the sense of European citizenship. The hypothesis that will be tested is that hosting a European mega-event causes a higher sense of European citizenship for residents than for residents living in a non-hosting city. The alternative hypothesis is that there is a relation between Positive experience LF18 and sense of European citizenship. The model will be tested comparing Leeuwarden and Groningen with a field study among the residents. The cities are capitals of the provinces Friesland and Groningen. Both are compact student cities and thus comparable to a certain extent in terms of age and education level (Studiekeuze 123, 2017).

FIGURE 1. Conceptual model



Methods

A quantitative approach is used in this investigation. The benefit of this approach is that the results of this research can be compared to figures of the national and European level. A number of instruments are available for measuring the sense of European citizenship. The design of the questionnaires is based on multiple researches. The questions on sense of European citizenship are adopted from the Eurobarometer (2006, 2017) and the EVS (2008) and are the dependent variables. Questions about age, gender, education, employment, having worked in another EU country, being a supervisor (occupational position) and income are included as control variables. Previous research shows that these factors influence sense of European citizenship (Dragičević et al., 2015; Pichler, 2008; Steiner et al., 2015). Also the question whether the respondent has a positive experience with LF18 is included to test a relation between the mega-event and sense of European citizenship outside place of residence. The questionnaire asked the respondents for their postal codes for possible mapping purposes. Questions with many options caused problems for the model, so a back-up binary variable was used instead. Some questions that were adopted from the Eurobarometer (2006, 2017) and the EVS (2008) contained the option 'don't know'. Those cases were left out of the analyses in order to get valid measure results. Some questions included a 'does not apply' option that is recoded into the value 'no' to avoid deleting cases unnecessarily. Questions concerning personal information as postal code and education level were not mandatory in order to respect the respondent's privacy. For the question measuring income an open answer is used instead of categories, so respondents could choose to not fill in their income. Respecting the privacy results in this questionnaire being ethically responsible. The questionnaire is included in Appendix 1.

The goal for the sample was to be representative with respect to the characteristics of the residents in both cities. The whole sample however is not a quota-sample. This is because the model requires many cases to run properly. Therefore 275 residents from Groningen and Leeuwarden were collected for this study. This sample is collected as a convenience sample. The criticism of this technique is that bias is introduced into the sample. Volunteers may not be representative of the population since volunteers often have a strong opinion they like to show off. Therefore a random sample is preferred, to avoid this bias (Lunsford & Lunsford, 1995). The means to conduct a random sample were not available, so a quota sample is included additionally to manage the bias (Ibid). By selecting cases a quota-sample analysis was possible. This sample consists of 98 respondents and is a fairly accurate reflection of the population in

terms of age and gender, only two respondents in the age 15-19 are missing for Leeuwarden. Both of the samples are analysed using logistic regression. Two of the dependent variables are ordinal, the other two are nominal. This results in a total of eight regression models. The characteristics of both cities used for the quota sample can be found in Appendix 2.

The data is collected making use of an online questionnaire. The residents were approached via e-mail and call-ups via associations and groups. What has to be taken into account when interpreting the results is that online questionnaires are not always filled in seriously. However, when filling in an online questionnaire, respondents are not tempted to 'impress' the pollster and it is less likely they will fill in e.g. a higher number for income. Another advantage is the anonymity of an online questionnaire. Respectively 275 residents responded, over half the sample (75,6%) is female, of whom 35,2% from Leeuwarden. Only 23,6% are men, of whom 55,4 % from Leeuwarden. Because of the online form, all cases are complete, except for some of the postal codes and probably some of the incomes. All participants filled in age correct, with the youngest participant being 17 years old and the oldest 88 years old.

Data management and analysis were performed using SPSS 25.0. To analyse the data Ordinal Regression and Multinomial Logistic Regression were used. These methods are suited to model the relation between a quantitative response variable and one or more explanatory variables (Moore & McCabe, 2006). As aforementioned, the data is analysed twice, firstly using all the cases and secondly using the quota sample. The unusable cases for the quota sample are deleted randomly. In order to test the relation between place of residence and sense of European citizenship regression analyses have been done. This paper analyses four dependent variables that measure sense of European citizenship and therefore eight models have run. For two of the models Ordinal Regression was used, for the other two Multinomial Logistic Regression. The results will be compared with the results of the Eurobarometer (2006, 2017) and the EVS (2008, 2013).

Results

The effect that will be tested is that hosting a European mega-event causes residents a higher sense of European citizenship than residents living in a non-hosting city. The hypothesis is therefore: Place of residence has a positive relation with sense of European citizenship. The alternative hypothesis is that there is a relation between Positive experience LF18 and sense of European citizenship. The null hypotheses are thus that all parameters of these effects are 0.

This chapter is divided in five sections. Every section deals with a different model. The first section deals with model A.1 (complete sample) and A.2 (quota sample). The dependent variable for this model is Feeling European next to Dutch. The second section deals with model B.1 (complete sample) and B.2 (quota sample). The dependent variable for this model is Feeling like a citizen of the EU. The third section deals with model C.1 (complete sample) and C.2 (quota sample). The dependent variable for this model is Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the first place). For the models D.1 (complete sample) and D.2 (quota sample) the variable concerning the second place (Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the second place)) is used and is discussed in the fourth section. The last section concerns the comparison with the Eurobarometer (2006, 2017) and the EVS (2008, 2013).

Model A.1 and A.2

The result of the ordinal regression analysis on model A.1 is a satisfying ,000 significance of the model. This means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. With a Nagelkerke of ,233 the interpretation of this model is fair. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model A.1 are presented in table 1.

TABLE 1 Model A.1

	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	,009	,977	1,009
<i>Age</i>	,005	,586	1,005
<i>Gender</i>	-,563	,050	,569
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	,619	,014	1,857
<i>Higher education</i>	1,652	,000	5,217
<i>Employment</i>	-,428	,166	,652
<i>Worked in EU</i>	,866	,019	2,377
<i>Supervisor</i>	,185	,638	1,203
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	-,001	,996	,999

Nagelkerke: ,233

Place of residence has no significant relation (.977) with Feeling European next to Dutch which is not in line with the hypothesis. The hypothesis thus is rejected for this model. Other significant relations however can be seen with Gender, Positive experience LF18, Higher education and Worked in EU. All relations are positive except for Gender. It is for the population of Groningen and Leeuwarden ,569 times less likely that a woman feels European next to Dutch than a man. It is supported by previous research that men feel more European than women (Pichler, 2008). In the population it is 1,857 times more likely that they feel

European next to Dutch if someone experiences LF18 positively. This indicates a relation between the European mega-event and sense of European citizenship as this paper expected. For this model the alternative hypothesis can be accepted. In the population it is 5,217 times more likely that one feels European next to Dutch when one is highly educated. This is supported by Pichler (2008), who also found that education has a significant impact on identification with Europe. When one has worked in another EU country, it is 2,377 times more likely that one feels European next to Dutch than someone who has not worked in another EU country. This is used in the analysis because of a presumable effect on the sense of European citizenship which now is proven for model A.1.

The result of the ordinal regression analysis on model A.2 is ,047 for the significance of the model which means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model A.2 are presented in table 2.

TABLE 2 Model A.2

	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	-,182	,692	,834
<i>Age</i>	-,003	,842	,997
<i>Gender</i>	-,210	,608	,811
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	,826	,094	2,284
<i>Higher education</i>	1,410	,010	4,096
<i>Employment</i>	-1,445	,026	,236
<i>Worked in EU</i>	,450	,404	1,568
<i>Supervisor</i>	,507	,374	1,660
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	-,037	,800	,964

Nagelkerke: ,184

Place of residence has no significant relation (,692) with Feeling European next to Dutch which is not in line with the hypothesis. The hypothesis thus is rejected for this model. Positive experience LF18 also has no significant relation (,094) with Feeling European next to Dutch. The alternative hypothesis is thus also rejected for this model. Other significant relations however can be seen with Higher education and Employment. In the population it is 4,096 times more likely that one feels European next to Dutch when one is highly educated. This relation is thus significant for both samples and is supported by previous research (Pichler, 2008). A negative significant relation can be seen between Employment and feeling European next to Dutch. For the population it is ,236 less likely that one feels European next to Dutch if one is employed. This is not supported by previous research. Pichler (2008) found that a higher

occupational position has positive significant impact on ones identification with Europe. Reason for this inconsistency in comparison to model A.1 could be the small sample size of the quota sample. Although the quota sample is more representative for the population than the complete sample, the small sample size makes this model less reliable. Both models did not find a significant impact of being a supervisor and income on feeling European next to Dutch while these do enforce a positive experience of the European mega-event (Dragićević et al., 2015; Steiner et al., 2015) and have impact on ones identification with Europe since these are indicators of occupational position (Pichler, 2008).

Model B.1 and B.2

The result of the ordinal regression analysis on model B.1 is a satisfying ,000 for the significance of the model. This means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model B.1 are presented in table 3.

TABLE 3 Model B.1

	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	,498	,113	1,645
<i>Age</i>	-,017	,040	,844
<i>Gender</i>	-,547	,053	,579
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	1,173	,000	3,232
<i>Higher education</i>	,737	,008	2,090
<i>Employment</i>	-,206	,479	0,814
<i>Worked in EU</i>	,781	,036	2,184
<i>Supervisor</i>	,651	,091	1,917
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	,010	,913	1,010

Nagelkerke: ,200

Place of residence has no significant relation (,113) with Feeling like a citizen of the EU which is not in line with the hypothesis. The hypothesis thus is rejected for this model. Other significant relations however can be seen with Age, Positive experience LF18, Higher education and Worked in EU. All relations are positive except for Age. The negative relation between Age and Feeling like a citizen of the EU indicates that for older people in the population it is less likely to feel like a citizen of the EU than for younger people. In the population it is 3,232 times more likely that they feel like a citizen of the EU to a higher extent if someone experiences LF18 positively. This indicates a relation between the European mega-event and sense of European citizenship as this paper expected. For this model the alternative hypothesis can be accepted. In the population it is 2,090 times more likely that one feels like a citizen of the EU

to a higher extent when one is highly educated. This is supported by Pichler (2008). When one has worked in another EU country, it is 2,184 times more likely that one feels like a citizen of the EU than someone who has not worked in another EU country. This is used in the analysis because of a presumable effect on the sense of European citizenship which now is proven for model A.1 and B.1.

The result of the ordinal regression analysis on model B.1 is ,034 for the significance of the model. This means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model B.2 are presented in table 4.

TABLE 4 Model B.2

	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	,476	,288	1,610
<i>Age</i>	-7,685E-5	,996	1,000
<i>Gender</i>	-,495	,218	,610
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	,963	,047	2,620
<i>Higher education</i>	1,065	,040	2,901
<i>Employment</i>	-,292	,633	,747
<i>Working in EU</i>	,680	,209	1,974
<i>Supervisor</i>	,416	,453	1,516
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	,011	,937	1,011

Nagelkerke: ,190

Place of residence has no significant relation (,288) with Feeling like a citizen of the EU which is not in line with the hypothesis. The hypothesis thus is rejected for this model. Other significant relations however can be seen with Positive experience LF18 and Higher education. For this model it is in the population 2,620 times more likely that they feel like a citizen of the EU to a higher extent if someone experiences LF18 positively. This indicates a relation between the European mega-event and sense of European citizenship as this paper expected. For this model the alternative hypothesis can thus be accepted. Also for this model it is in the population 2,901 times more likely that one feels like a citizen of the EU to a higher extent when one is highly educated. Pichler (2008) also found that education has a significant impact on identification with Europe. Both models did not find a significant impact of employment, being a supervisor and income on feeling like a citizen of the EU while these do enforce a positive experience of the European mega-event (Dragičević et al., 2015; Steiner et al., 2015). In addition, these factors have according to Pichler (2008) an impact on ones identification with Europe since these are indicators of occupational position.

Model C.1 and C.2

The result of the multinomial regression analysis on model C.1 is ,004 for the significance of the model. This means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model C.1 are presented in table 5 in Appendix 3. The results show no significant relation between Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the first place) and Place of residence. There also is no significant relation for the control variables. Therefore the hypothesis and the alternative hypothesis can be rejected for this model.

The result of the multinomial regression analysis on model C.2 is ,121 for the significance of the model. This means the model is not significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus not valuable (Cohen et al., 2003). It is probable that the amount of cases in the quota sample is too little to make this model work.

Model D.1 and D.2

The result of the multinomial regression analysis on model D.1 is ,003 for the significance of the model. This means the model is significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus valuable. Relations between the dependent and the control variables for model C.1 are presented in table 6 in Appendix 3. The results show no significant relation between Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the second place) and Place of residence. There also is no significant relation for the control variables. Therefore the hypothesis and the alternative hypothesis can be rejected for this model.

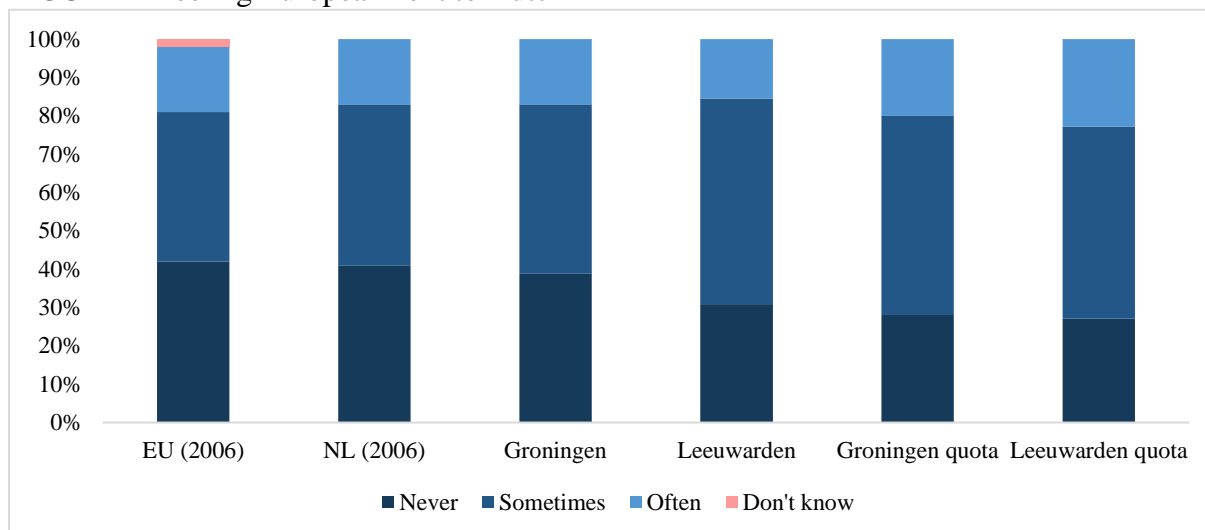
The result of the multinomial regression analysis on model D.2 is ,115 for the significance of the model. This means the model is not significant using a 95% confidence interval. Interpretation of the outcomes is thus not valuable (Cohen et al., 2003). It is probable that the amount of cases in the quota sample is too little to make this model work.

Comparison

Since four questions of the questionnaire used for this research are adopted from the Eurobarometer (2006, 2017) and the EVS (2008), it is possible to do a comparison of the results of this paper and the results for the EU and the Netherlands. Feeling European next to Dutch is one of the variables that is comparable. Figure 2 shows the outcomes for the EU, the Netherlands, Groningen (complete sample), Leeuwarden (complete sample), Groningen (quota sample) and Leeuwarden (quota sample). The figure shows that Groningen (quota sample) and

Leeuwarden (quota sample) score lower on ‘never’ and higher on ‘sometimes’ and ‘often’. For Groningen and Leeuwarden this also applies, but in a lower extent. Leeuwarden scores a little higher than Groningen for feeling European next to Dutch, as expected. The aforementioned results however show that this difference is not significant.

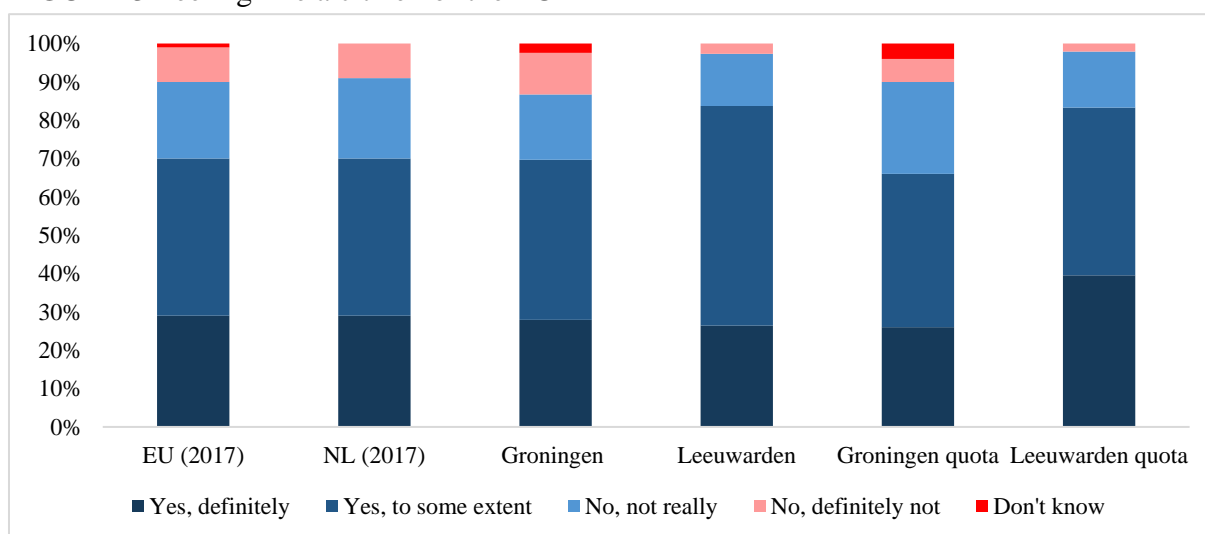
FIGURE 2 Feeling European next to Dutch



Source: Eurobarometer 2006

For the variable Feeling like a citizen of the EU the differences seem larger, as can be seen in figure 3. Both Leeuwarden samples seem to score higher than the Groningen samples, which are similar to the average of the Netherlands and the EU. Less respondents from Leeuwarden chose ‘No, definitely not’ and more chose ‘Yes, to some extent’ and ‘Yes, definitely’. The aforementioned results however show that this difference is not significant.

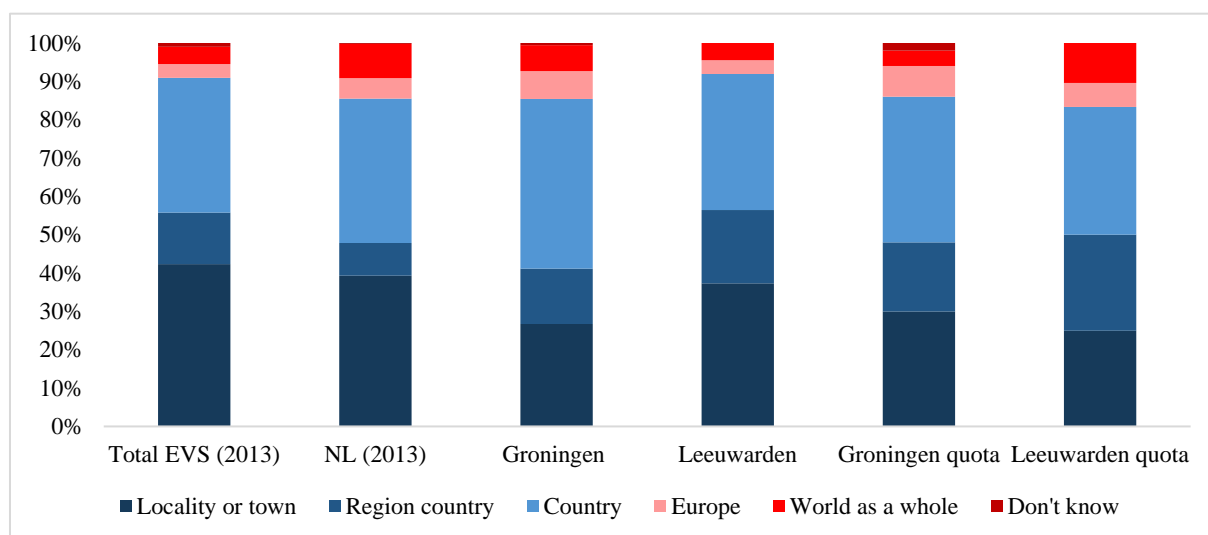
FIGURE 3 Feeling like a citizen of the EU



Source: Eurobarometer 2017

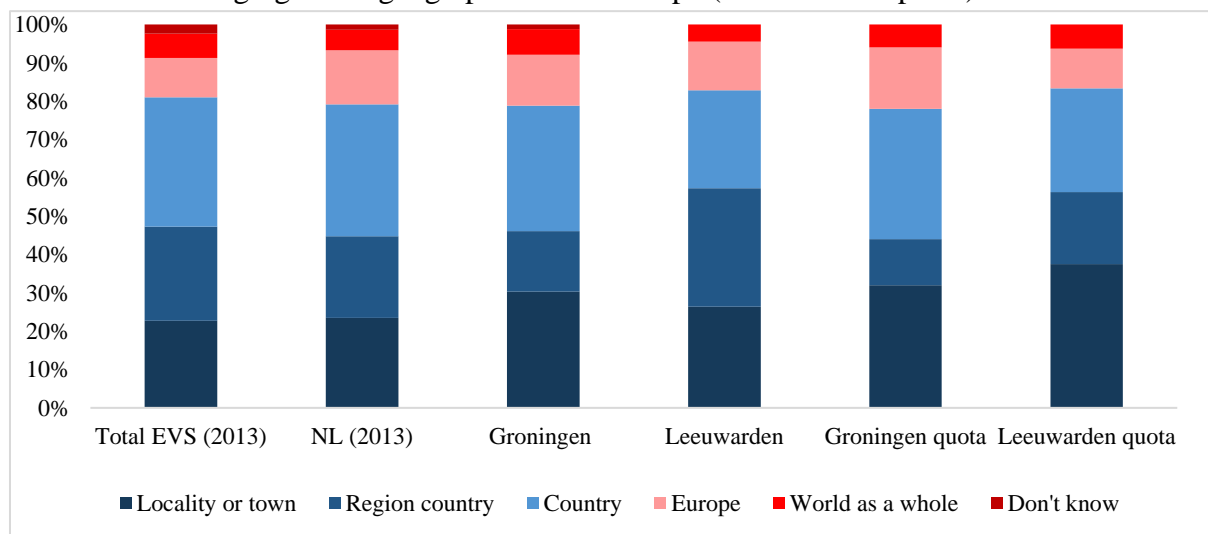
The variables Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the first and second place) are adopted from the EVS (2008). Figure 4 shows that respondents from Groningen chose Europe as geographical unit they feel they belong to in the first place most often. This is not in line with what this paper attempted to argue. Figure 5 shows that more people in general feel they belong to the geographical unit Europe in the second place. For the samples it seems that Groningen and Groningen (quota sample) scores a little higher than Leeuwarden and Leeuwarden (quota sample). Figure 6 shows the percentages of people who answered ‘Europe’ as the geographical unit they belong to in the first place for all the EU (2008) countries. The Netherlands scores above average, but not as high as Belgium (7,4%) and Luxembourg (17,6%).

FIGURE 4 Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the first place)



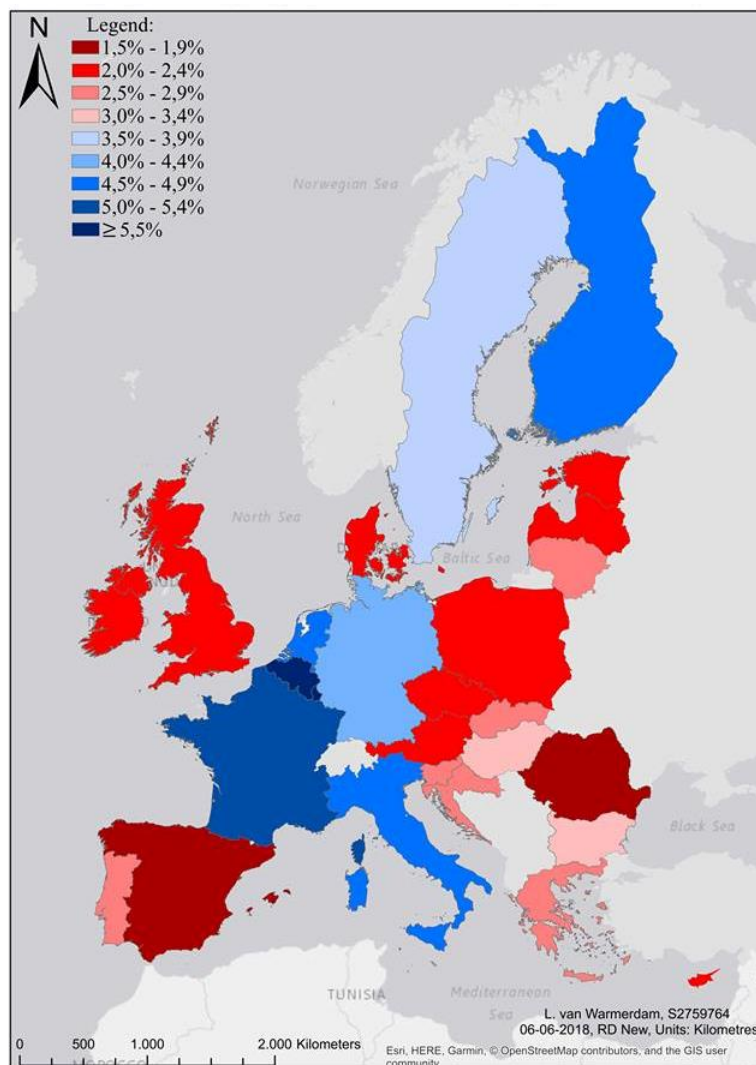
Source: EVS 2015

FIGURE 5 Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the second place)



Source: EVS 2015

FIGURE 5 Belonging to the geographical unit Europe (in the first place)



Source: EVS 2015

Overall, these results indicate that in the population there is a relation between experiencing LF18 positively and sense of European citizenship. This thus suggests that the mega-event does influence the sense of European citizenship. The place of residence does not have a relation with sense of European citizenship. No significant differences exist between citizens from Groningen and citizens from Leeuwarden. Reason for this could be that Groningen is too close to Leeuwarden and residents benefit or suffer as much from the European mega-event as the residents from Leeuwarden.

Conclusions and discussion

The central research question for this research is as follows: Does a European mega-event as the Capital of Culture in Leeuwarden influence the sense of European citizenship among the citizens in comparison to the citizens of Groningen? The study presented here attempted to address this question using the following sub-questions: Do citizens of Groningen or Leeuwarden have a higher sense of European citizenship? What influences the sense of European citizenship? This paper argued that a relation between living in a hosting city and the sense of European citizenship of the residents of the hosting city exists. A relation between the variable Place of residence and the variables addressing the sense of European citizenship was expected and would answer the first sub-question. This study however has identified that this relation does not exist. The second major finding was that experiencing LF18 positively does influence sense of European citizenship. This indicates that the European mega-event has an impact on the sense of European citizenship on the nearby living population. The existence of this relation answers the second sub-question and the central research question. Additionally the findings that age, gender, higher education, employment and worked in another EU country influence sense of European citizenship answer the second sub-question as well. These findings complement those of earlier studies (Pichler, 2008), except for the negative relation with employment. The findings also corroborate with the findings of enforce a positive experience of the European mega-event Dragičević et al. (2015) and Steiner et al. (2015), since they found that these factors enforce a positive experience of the European mega-event, which in turn enforces the sense of European citizenship. However, not all of the expected factors influenced the sense of European citizenship. The small sample size used for some models did not allow this paper to be certain of the existence of all relations found, as well as that not every model showed that these relations exist. This may be the result of the difference in the aspect of European citizenship the different dependent questions addressed. The relation between Positive experience LF18 and sense of European citizenship is a contribution to the current literature but considerably more work will need to be done to establish this relation. This also applies for the relation with Having worked in another EU country. This paper thus contributes to the understanding of the European identity within the spatial sciences, but to a limited extent. A major limitation of this study is that the complete sample was not collected randomly and not representative for the population. The quota sample is with 98 cases small for this model and thus not fully reliable. The questions raised by this study are that if the samples were more representative or larger the relations would still exist and if there would exist a significant

relationship between place of residence and sense of European citizenship when the comparison is done with a city further away from Leeuwarden than Groningen. Recommended is that further research will explore these questions and examine the established links more extensively.

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Appendix 1: Questionnaire

1. Where do you live?
 - A. Leeuwarden
 - B. Groningen
2. What is your postal code?
4. What is your gender?
 - A. Man
 - B. Woman
 - C. Different
3. What is your age?
4. Do you ever think of yourself as not only Dutch, but also European? Does this happen often, sometimes or never?)
 - A. Often
 - B. Sometimes
 - C. Never
5. Which of these geographical groups would you say you belong to first of all?
 - A. City or place you live
 - B. Province you live
 - C. The Netherlands
 - D. Europe
 - E. The whole world
 - F. I don't know
6. And secondly?
 - A. City or place you live
 - B. Province you live
 - C. The Netherlands
 - D. Europe
 - E. The whole world
 - F. I don't know
7. For the following statement please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to your own opinion. You feel you are a citizen of the EU:
 - A. Yes, definitely
 - B. Yes, to some extent
 - C. No, not really
 - D. No, definitely not
 - E. Don't know

8. Did you know Leeuwarden is the Capital of Culture of 2018?

- A. No
- B. Yes

9. If yes, do you experience this as something positive?

- A. No
- B. Yes
- C. Does not apply

10. Did you or do you study at HBO or University?

- A. No
- B. Yes

11. Are you employed?

- A. No
- B. Yes

12. Are you supervisor?

- A. No
- B. Yes
- C. Does not apply

13. What is your income?

14. Did you work in another European country?

- A. No
- B. Yes

Appendix 2: Quota sample characteristics

	Groningen	Leeuwarden
Women (% of total)	49,99%	50,46%
Men (% of total)	50,01%	49,54%
15-19 (% of total)	6,49%	6,13%
20-24 (% of total)	17,19%	9,44%
25-44 (% of total)	30,39%	26,23%
45-64 (% of total)	21,39%	25,93%
65-80 (% of total)	9,24%	12,73%
80+ (% of total)	3,12%	4,44%
0 – 14 (% of total)	12,18%	15,1%

Groningen	<i>50 * percentage = goal</i>	<i># respondents</i>
Men	25	25
Women	25	25
	<i>56,09 * percentage = goal</i>	<i># respondents</i>
15-19	4	4
20-24	10	10
25-44	17	17
45-64	12	12
65-80	5	5
80 +	2	2
Goal = 50		$\Sigma = 50$

Leeuwarden	<i>50 * percentage = goal</i>	<i># respondents</i>
Men	25	24
Women	25	24
	<i>57,55 * percentage = goal</i>	<i># respondents</i>
15-19	3	1
20-24	6	6
25-44	15	15
45-64	15	15
65-80	8	8
80 +	3	3
Goal = 50		$\Sigma = 48$

Appendix 3: Tables model C.1 and model D.1

TABLE 5 Model C.1

<i>Europe</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	,359	,718	1,432
<i>Age</i>	-,011	,695	,989
<i>Gender</i>	1,668	,094	5,300
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	-1,365	,123	,255
<i>Higher education</i>	,060	,954	1,061
<i>Employment</i>	,682	,475	1,978
<i>Worked in EU</i>	,587	,479	1,798
<i>Supervisor</i>	,093	,931	1,098
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	,375	,718	1,432

Nagelkerke: ,217

TABLE 6 Model D.1

<i>Europe</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
<i>Place of residence</i>	-,129	,876	,879
<i>Age</i>	0,14	,521	1,014
<i>Gender</i>	-,240	,757	,787
<i>Positive experience LF18</i>	1,023	,141	2,782
<i>Higher education</i>	-,588	,529	,555
<i>Employment</i>	,193	,796	1,213
<i>Worked in EU</i>	,568	,476	1,765
<i>Supervisor</i>	,183	,851	1,201
<i>Income (/1000)</i>	-,273	,370	,761

Nagelkerke: ,221