

Read the text and complete each blank with ONE suitable word from the list supplied, writing the word chosen in the numbered boxes below. Each word can only be used ONCE. Five of these words are not to be used. The first blank has been completed as an example.

MARK

### EUROPEAN BIRTH RATE REDUCED BY ECONOMIC FACTORS

A fertility behaviour project funded by the European Commission shows that more \_ [than] \_ half the people questioned would on average like at least two children. However, a great \_ [11] \_ of couples actually have fewer, due to worries about the future and the \_ [12] \_ of raising children. The DIALOG project collected data from 30,000 people in 14 European countries on their attitudes and opinions \_ [13] \_ family numbers, fertility behaviour and demographic change. Financed with €1.5 m from the Sixth Framework research programme, the project provides a useful snapshot of European fertility behaviour for policy-makers at national and European level.

The study shows that \_ [14] \_ desired fertility in Europe is still in line with the two child family. \_ [15] \_ than half of all those questioned, whether male or female, wanted to have two or more children. There is a difference though, between the real and the desired number of children in \_ [16] \_ like Cyprus, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary and the Netherlands. There is also a drop of the desired number of children to \_ [17] \_ two in Germany, Italy, Austria and Belgium and the Czech Republic.

The \_ [18] \_ concluded that countries with a low desired number of children face the task of \_ [19] \_ more family-friendly attitudes. The considerable share of those wanting no children in some countries (highest in Germany and the Netherlands) would call into question whether family policy will be able to promote more \_ [20] \_.

When asked about their expectations of family policy the differences in answers from one Member State to another \_ [21] \_ that a "one size fits all" approach to family policy will not work. For example, those questioned in Western European countries tended to be more in \_ [22] \_ of a combination of financial \_ [23] \_ and flexible working hours, while those from Eastern European countries favoured of combining full-time employment with family.

The declining importance \_ [24] \_ to the institution of marriage and the rise in divorce rates do not necessarily translate into fewer births. In fact, births have remained \_ [25] \_ over the last ten years in the range of 1.2-1.4 children, with the ratio of children born to unmarried \_ [26] \_ rising to 30%-40%. However, having children within marriage remains the preferred \_ [27] \_, especially in Southern and Eastern European countries, with approval rates of 80% in Italy, Lithuania and Poland. On the other hand, living \_ [28] \_ without having children is also becoming more acceptable, for example 26%-31% approval in countries like the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands.

Other issues \_ [29] \_ by the project include attitudes to women at work, gender roles and the distribution of housework within families. The survey also looks at the \_ [30] \_ of the elderly in Europe, showing that elderly people are viewed as having a value to society, and younger generations expressing their willingness to help the elderly where needed.

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AS	CONCERNING	FAVOUR	PARENT	<b>THAN</b>
ATTACHED	COST	MORE	RESEARCHERS	TOGETHER
AVERAGE	COUNTRIES	MOST	SHOW	
BELOW	ENCOURAGING	MOTHERS	SITUATION	
BIRTHS	EXAMINED	NATION	STEADY	
CHOICE	EXAMPLE	NUMBER	SUPPORT	

#### 0. **THAN**

11.	15.	19.	23.	27.
12.	16.	20.	24.	28.
13.	17.	21.	25.	29.
14.	18.	22.	26.	30.