



14th Global Meeting of the NTA Network

Non-monetary interhousehold transfers: Is time use data adequate?

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Interhousehold Transfers of Time

- These refers to transfers of time (non-market productive activities) done between members not living in the same household.
- They can be household work activities (cooking, cleaning, managing, etc.) or care activities.
- And the recipient can be an adult (adultcare) or a child (childcare).
- In the NTTA approach interhousehold transfers are measured using Time Use Surveys (TUS), where interviewees report having done activities of household work or care for members from outside the household.

Measuring interhousehold transfers

We could say that transfers done to other households can be a **rare event**, and are subject to many specific **problems for their measurement**.

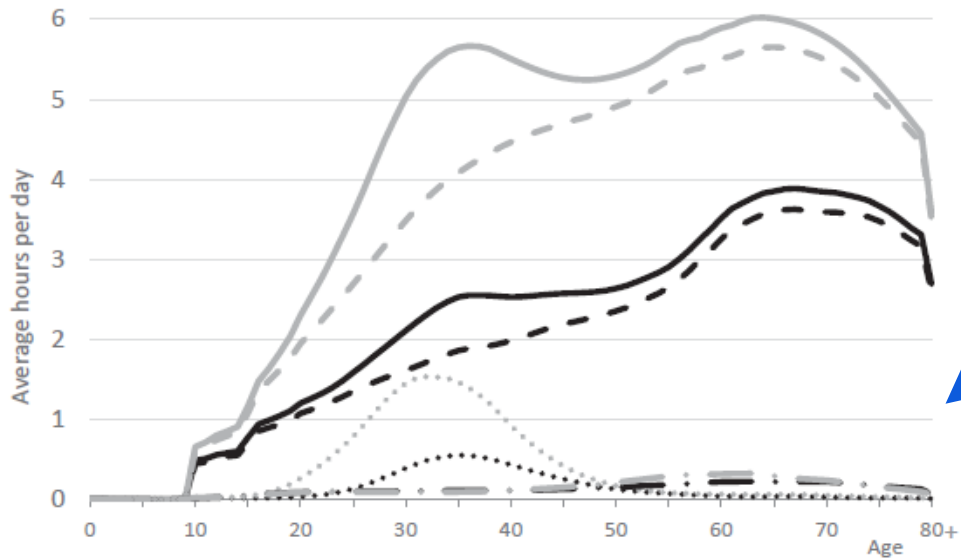
- **Small sample size:** difficult to capture them and with large sampling errors making it difficult to accurately estimate their prevalence and duration.
- **Lack of standard definitions:** more subject to interpretation, leading to inconsistent or unreliable data.
- Interference with other activities (**joint production**): difficult to accurately capture their timing and duration when they are being done at the same time that other activities.

There is a wide range of literature on the problems regarding measurement of informal care (although not specifically done outside the household).

NTTA interhousehold transfers using HETUS

Production profiles NTTA 14 European countries

Vargha et al., 2015. Household production and consumption over the lifecycle: the National Time Transfer Accounts in 14 European countries



Very low levels of interhousehold transfers (less than 30 minutes at max)



- Men's total household production
- Women's total household production
- Men's childcare
- Women's childcare
- - - Men's housework
- - - Women's housework
- Men's inter-household
- Women's inter-household

Objective and data

- Measure interhousehold transfers of time from another survey (SHARE) and compare estimates from HETUS.
- Analysis are restricted to respondents aged 50+ (limit of SHARE survey) and results are presented in 10-year age groups (50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+) to reduce noise.
- We compare 8 countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Spain.
- Year of analysis of SHARE is 2006-2010 and HETUS refers to 2008-2015.
- Analysis are shown only for production of activities, by gender and type of transfers (transfers to adults and transfers for caring for children), not separating between care and household work.

Comparing SHARE and TUS questions

	SHARE	HETUS
Time reference	Yearly - “In the last 12 months have you personally given any kind of help (listed) to a family member from outside the household, a friend or neighbour?” “Frequency (daily, weekly, monthly or less)” “Hours of a typical day/week/month/year”	A specific day of a diary – records activities every 10 minutes
Type of help	<p>Separates questions for help given to a family member from outside the household, friend or neighbor AND look after grandchildren.</p> <p>Within adult care it can be separated into: 1. personal care 2. practical household help 3. help with paperwork</p>	<p>Separates between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction and repairs as help (421) - Help in employment or farming (422) - Other childcare as help to another household (423) - Care of own children in another household (424) - Help to an adult of another household (425) - Other unspecified informal help to another hh (429)
Other	Allows to identify the age of the family member or grandchildren that the help is given to (not of the friend or the neighbor, though)	No identification of the age of the receiver of the help

Adult care

	SHARE	HETUS
Time period	Yearly	A specific day of a diary
Type of help	<p>Separates questions for help given to a family member from outside the household, friend or neighbor AND look after grandchildren.</p> <p>Within adult care it can be separated into: 1. personal care 2. practical household help 3. help with paperwork</p>	<p>Separates between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction and repairs as help (421) - Help in employment or farming (422) - Other childcare as help to another household (423) - Care of own children in another household (424) - Help to an adult of another household (425) - Other unspecified informal help to another household (429)
Other	Allows to identify the age of the family member or grandchildren that the help is given to (not of the friend or the neighbor, though)	No identification of the age of the receiver of the help

Childcare

	SHARE	HETUS
Time period	Yearly	A specific day of a diary
Type of help	<p>Separates questions for help given to a family member from outside the household, friend or neighbor AND look after grandchildren.</p> <p>Within adult care it can be separated into: 1. personal care 2. practical household help 3. help with paperwork</p>	<p>Separates between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction and repairs as help (421) - Help in employment or farming (422) - Other childcare as help to another household (423) - Care of own children in another household (424) - Help to an adult of another household (425) - Other unspecified informal help to another household (429)
Other	Allows to identify the age of the family member or grandchildren that the help is given to (not of the friend or the neighbor, though)	No identification of the age of the receiver of the help

Estimating transfers given from SHARE and HETUS

- SHARE

The frequency (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly) and the number of hours of a “typical” day/week/month/year are combined to obtain the number of minutes per day.

There were several inconsistencies in the answers. We set up a limit of 10 hours per day (adult care + grandchildren care) as a maximum level, and 70 hours per week. This changed 49% of the answers of people reporting giving help, but only 14% changed in more than 1 hour per day.

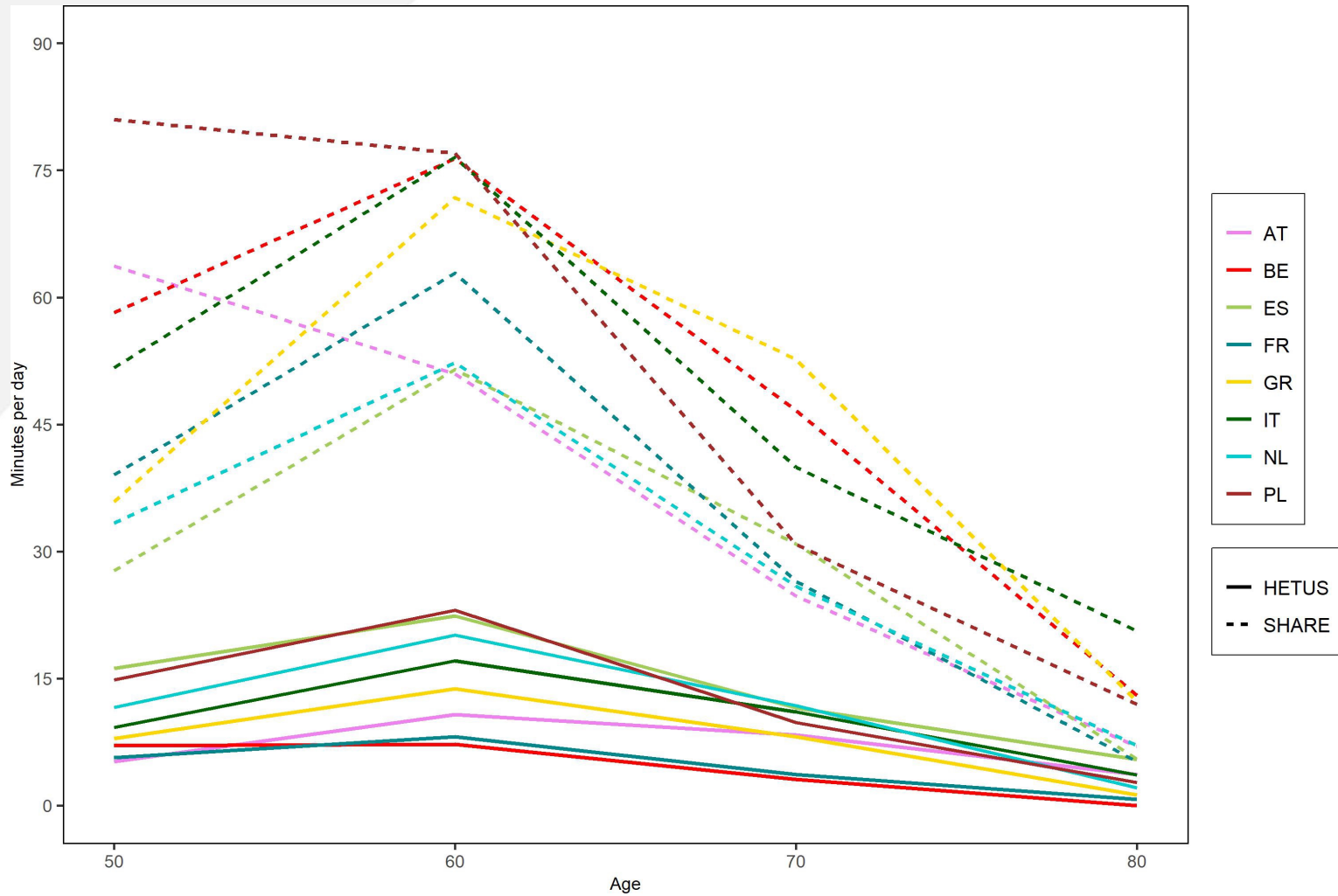
- HETUS

Estimated the average time (in min.) per day among all the individuals.

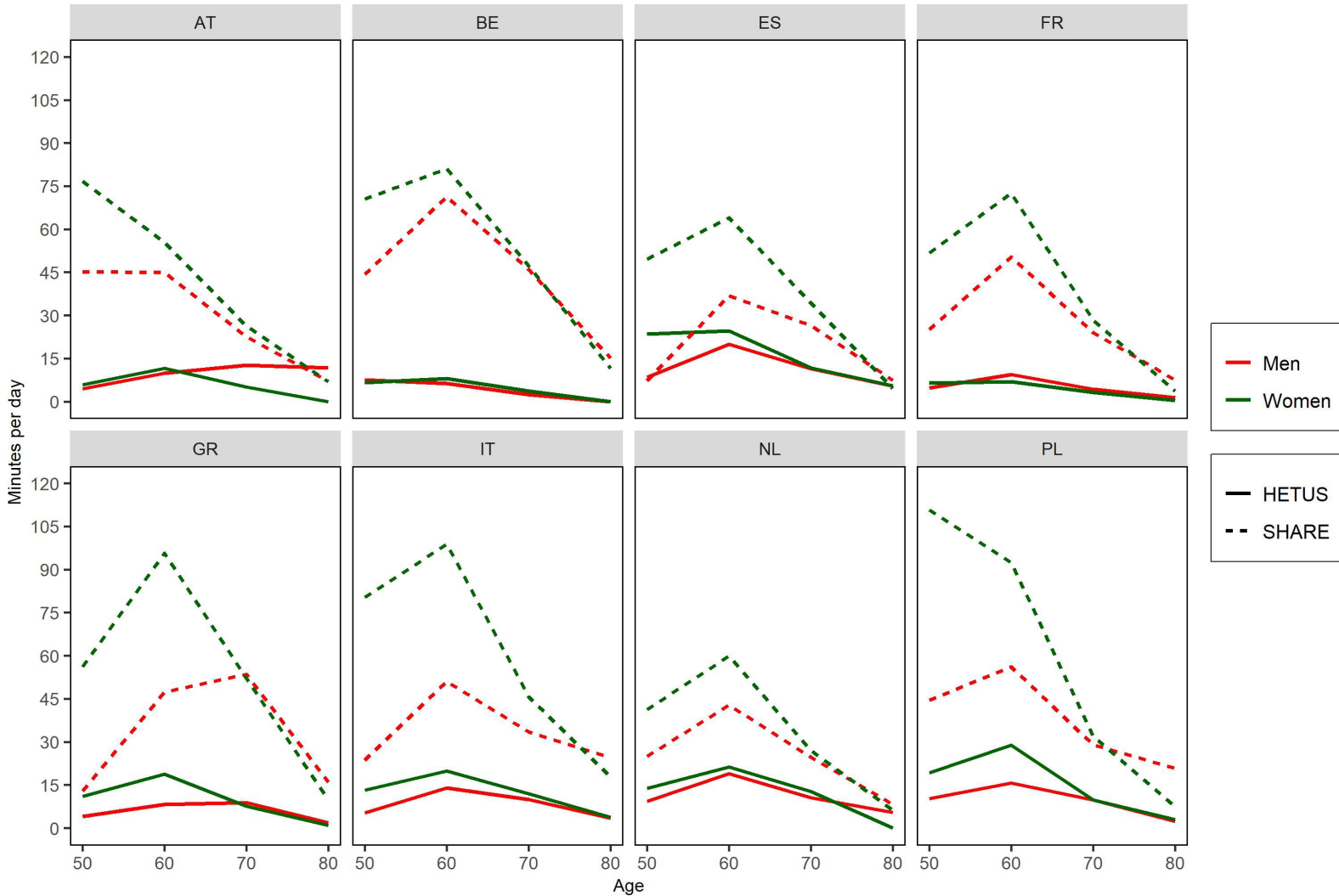
The proportion of participants was done selecting respondents who reported giving any kind of help from both surveys.

Interhousehold Transfers
Age profiles of average minutes

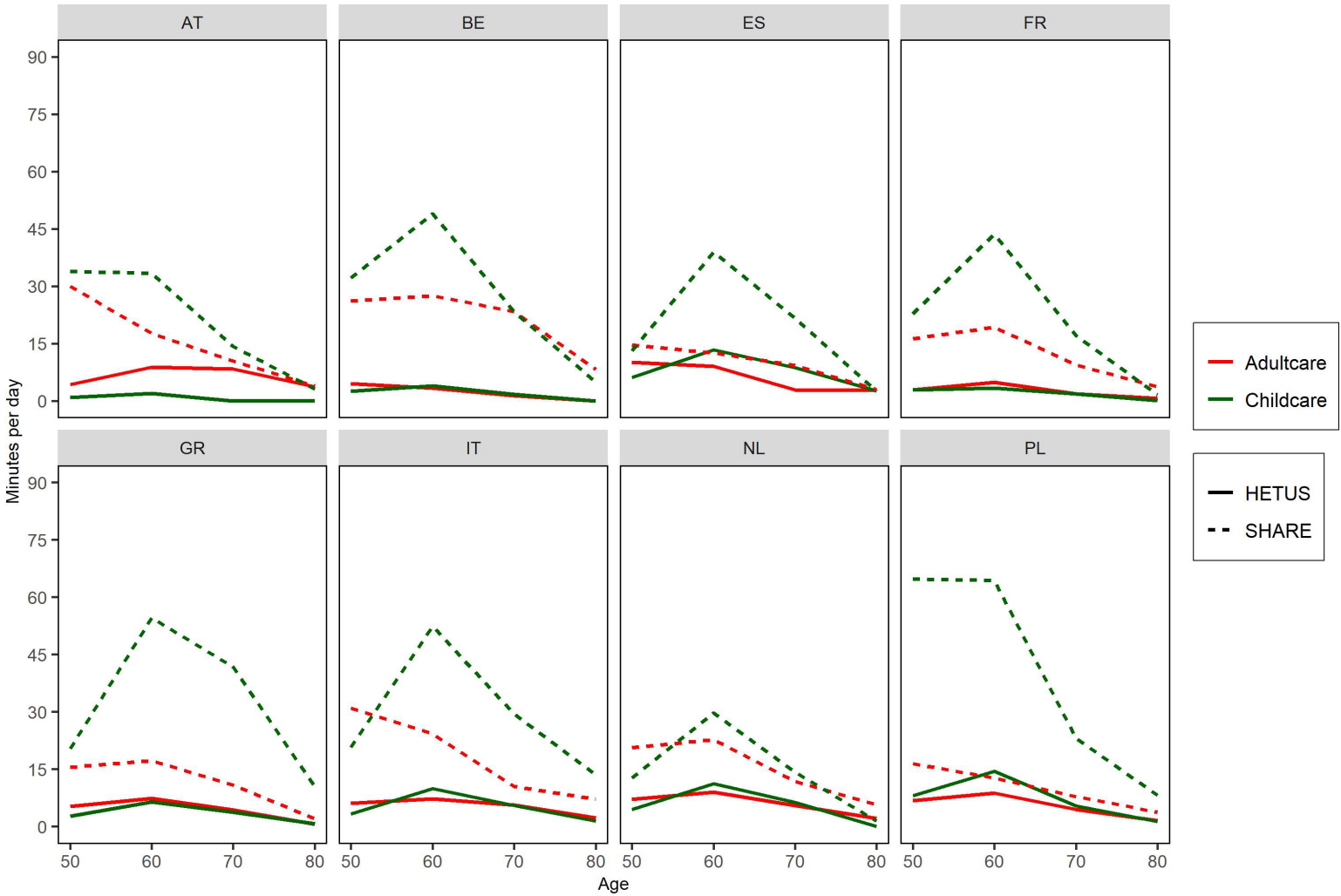
Total



By gender

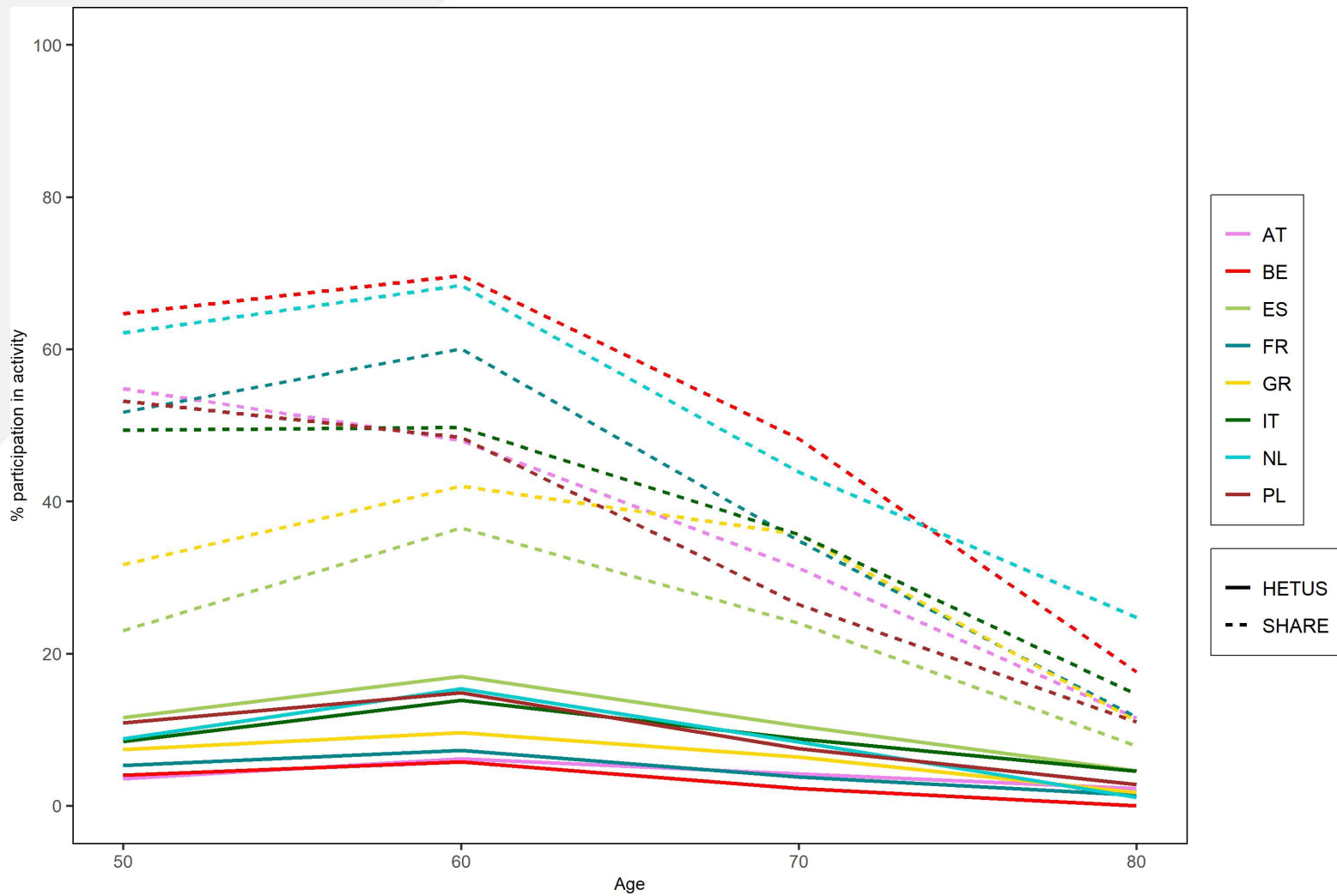


By age of receiver

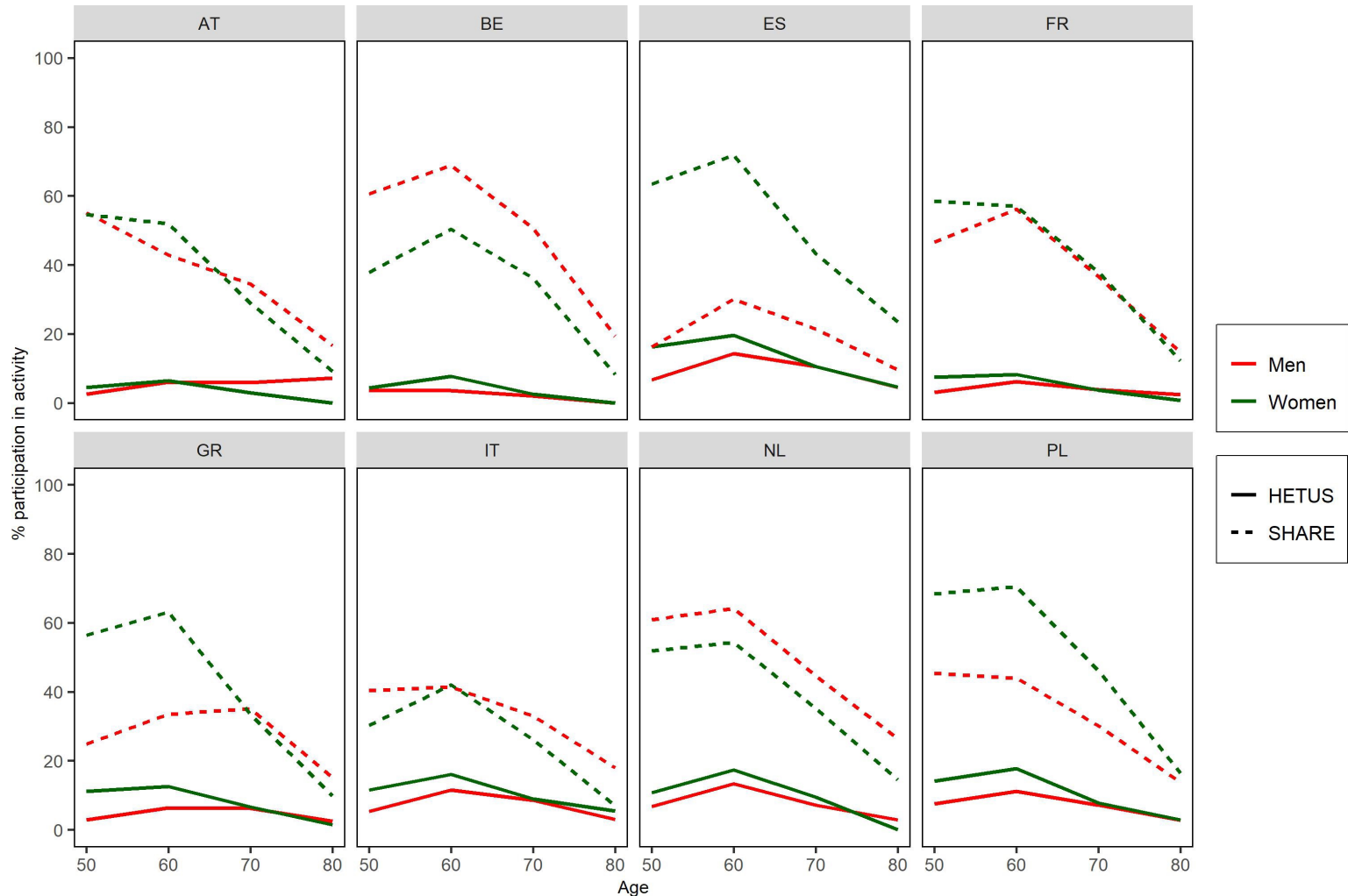


Proportion of producers/givers

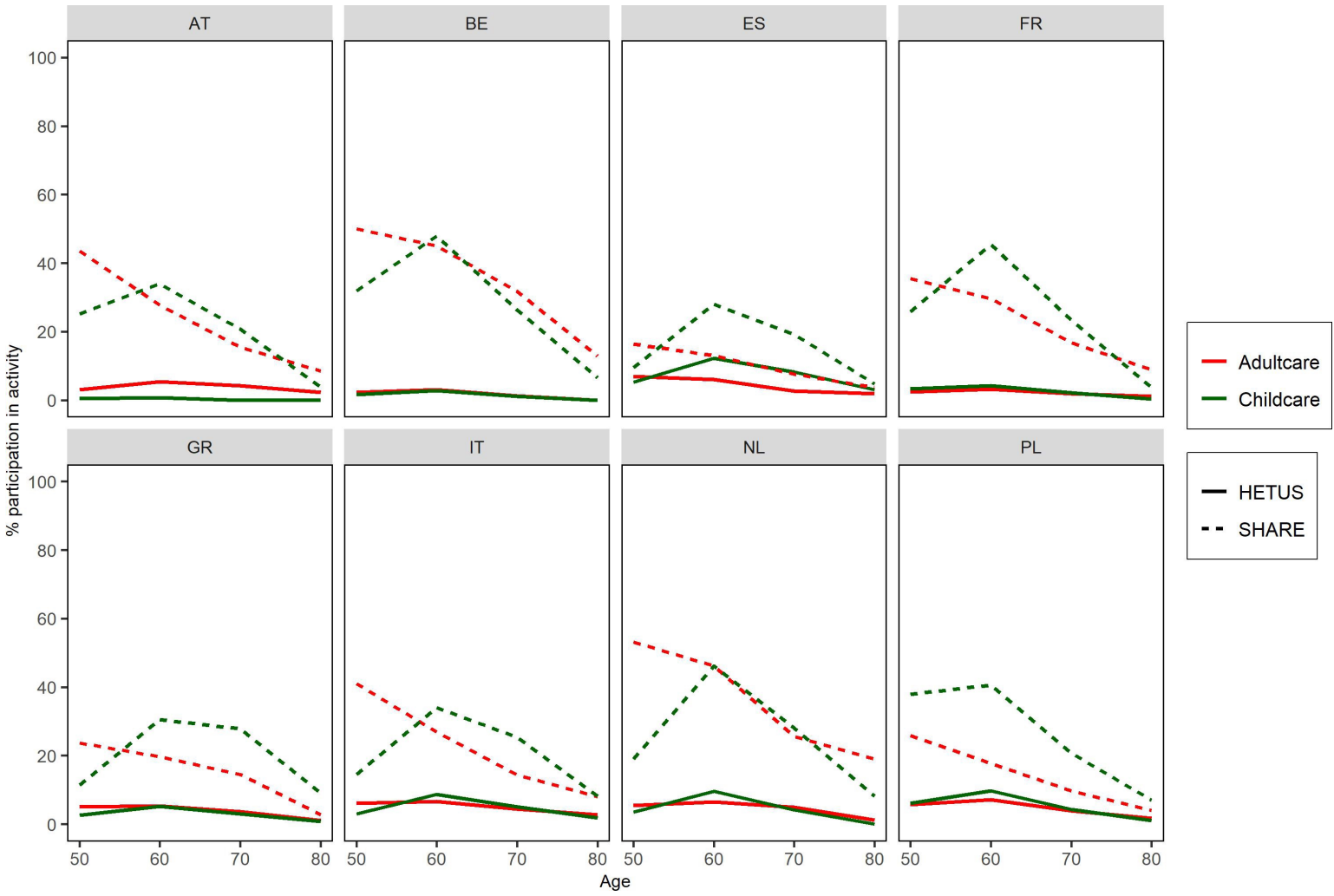
Total



By gender

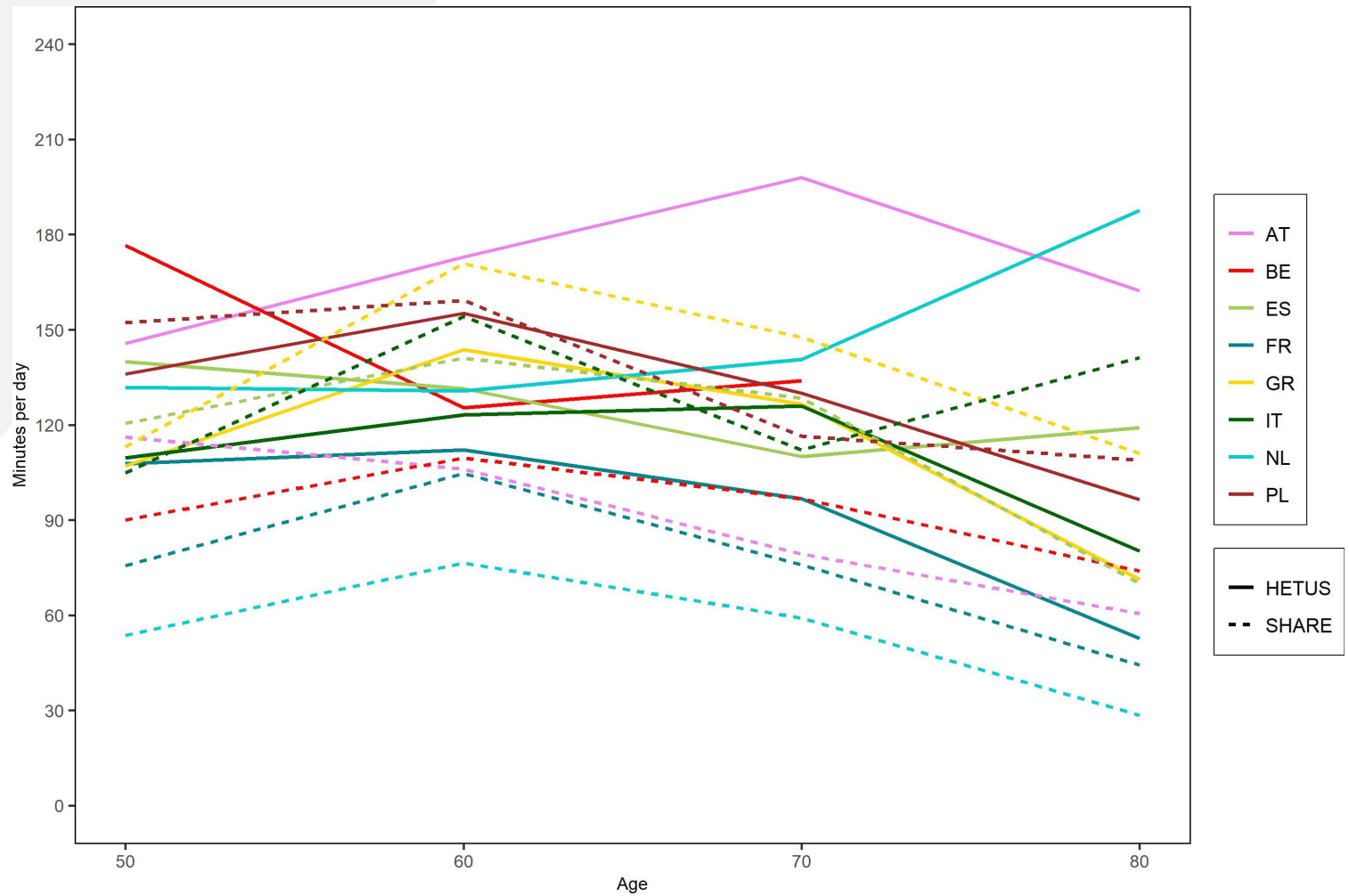


By age of receiver

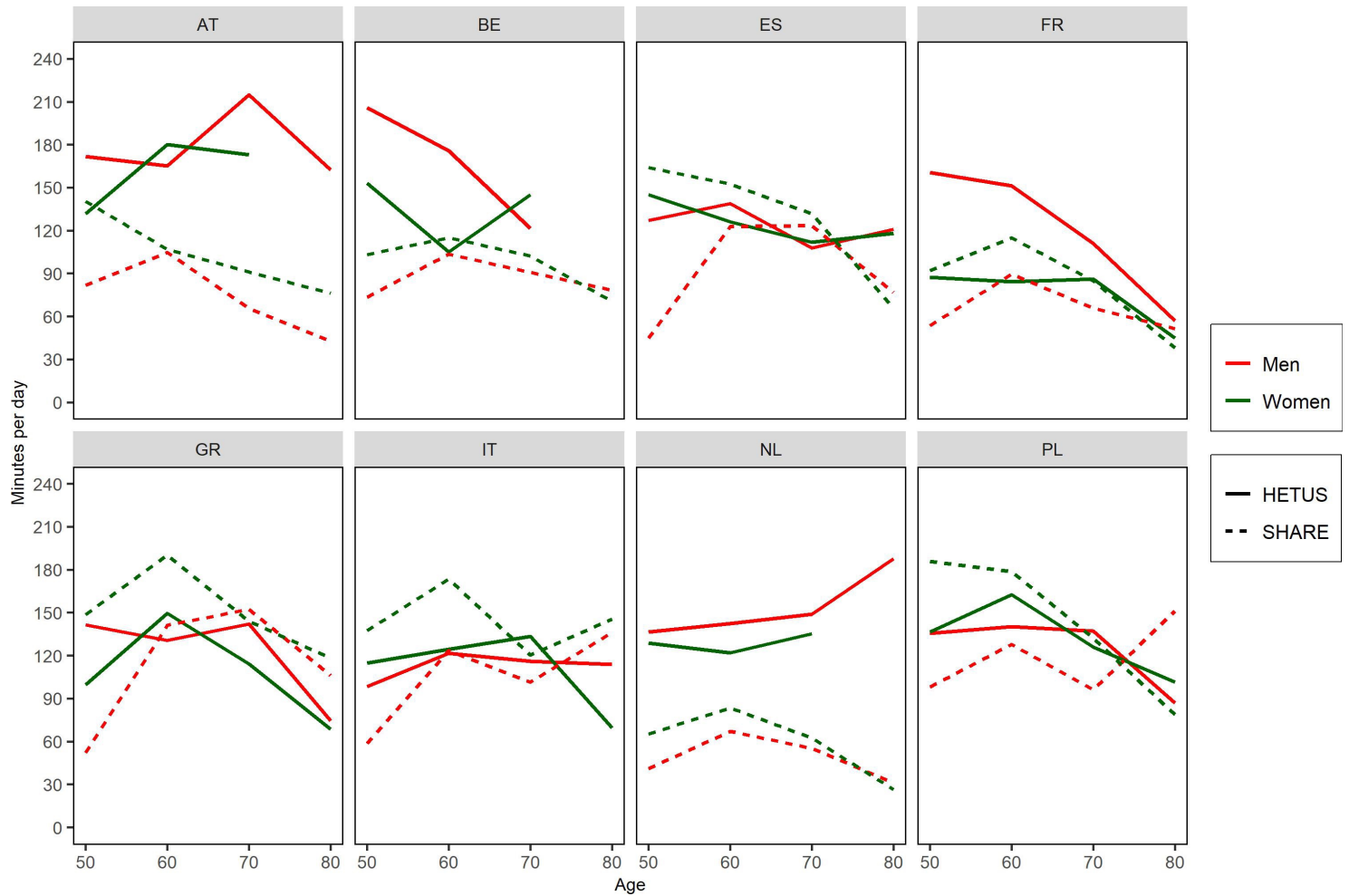


Time produced only among producers/givers

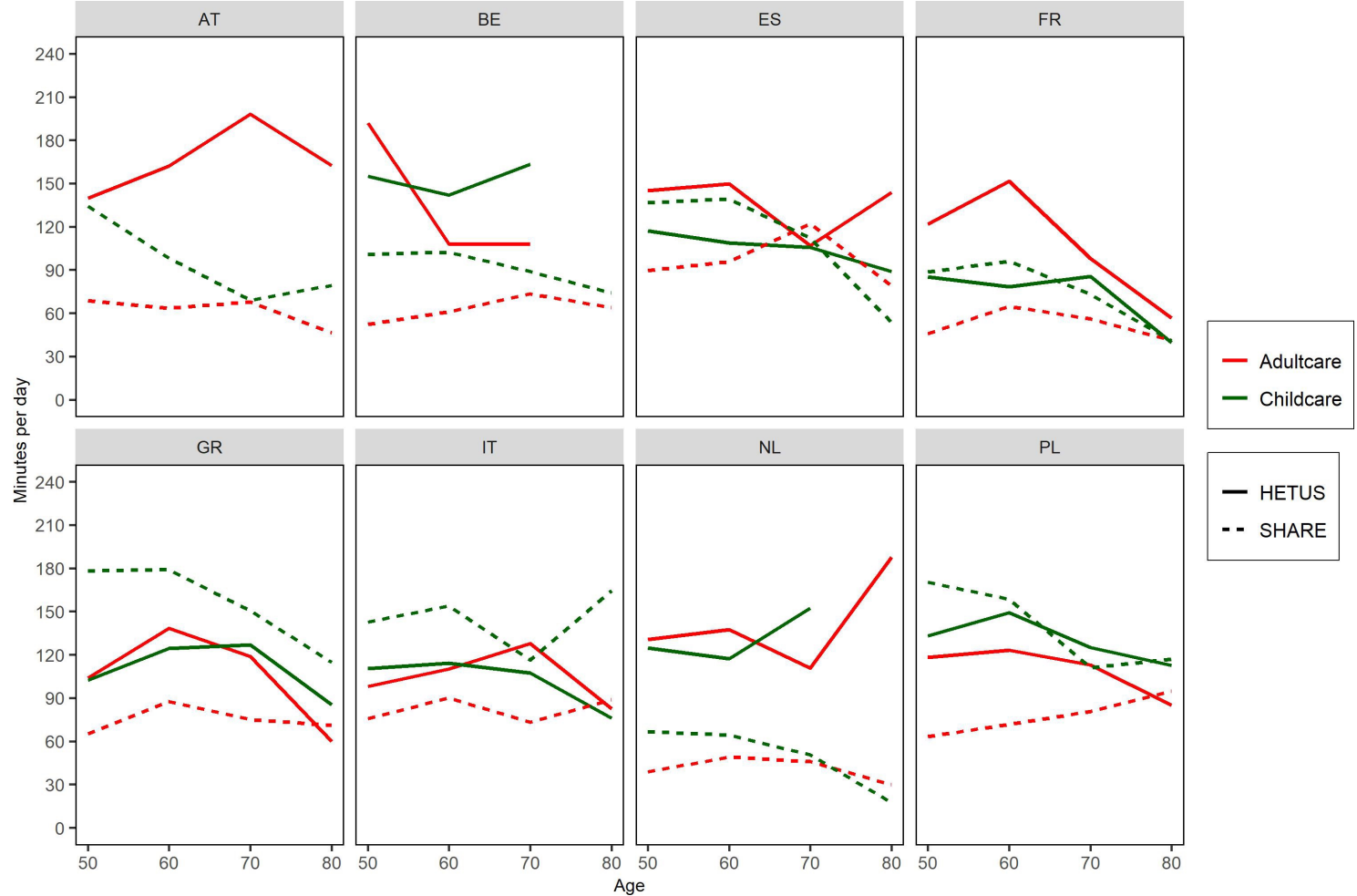
Total



By gender



By age of receiver



Discussion and further work

- Results from SHARE and HETUS are not strictly comparable.
- SHARE have less reliable answers (need to clean the data).
- HETUS underestimates exchanges that occur between households, because interhousehold transfers is a rare event.
- Conclusion: **HETUS might be measuring better** but does not capture well rare events. Therefore, **SHARE might give a better approach of the proportion of carers/producers/givers.**
- Monetary exchanges in NTA are measured using yearly references. Including a question in HETUS about the frequency of rare events (yearly referenced) could help correct this levels?