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Research Report #2

COUNTRY CONTEXTUAL REPORTS

Demographic trends, labour market and social policies

Edited by Claire Wallace

Project coordinated by the Institut für Höhere Studien (IHS), Wien Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

Project funded and supported by the European Community
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Project supported by the programme “Improving Human Research Potential & the Socio-economic Knowledge base” of the European Community

Project coordinated by the Institut für Höhere Studien (IHS), Wien Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Annotation

This volume “Country contextual reports: Demographic trends, labour market and social policies” is the second publication in a series of research reports being produced within the framework of the multinational research project “Households, Work and Flexibility”. Individual chapters in the report give a description and analysis of labour market policies, demographic and social trends and family and social policies with a special emphasis on flexibility for each country in the project. The countries covered are: three EU-member states (United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Sweden) and five Applicant countries (Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania).

Acknowledgements

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the European Commission.

We would like to thank the sponsors of the project Directorate-General Research at the European Commission and especially Mrs. Fadila Boughanemi for funding and supporting the project. We would also like to thank the Austrian Ministry for Science, Education and Art for additional support and the staff at the Bureau for International Research and Technology Co-operation for their helpful advice.

We are also grateful to Radu Dobreci for his help with the layout and to Alexander Chvorostov for his energetic and careful guidance.
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The country survey reports constitute Deliverable 6 (Workpackage 2) of the project Households, Work and Flexibility funded by the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme contract no. HPSE-1999-00030. The project extends from April 2000 to April 2003. We are grateful to the Commission for their support of this work. Further information can be found on the homepage of the project1. All documents can be downloaded cost free at that address; the full collection HWF research reports2 (five issues) can be purchased from the library of the coordinating institution IHS-Vienna3.

These are the reports of the labour market and social policies as well as employment and social trends in the following countries: the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

The project is designed to look at the relationship between households and the kinds of work undertaken by households, including all the family members and using a broad definition of work to include both paid and unpaid labour. The project considers the role of flexibility in this context and for this purpose we have defined flexibility as that of time, place and conditions. That is, we are considering flexible hours of work, flexible place of work and various contractual conditions.

The countries chosen were intended to be illustrative of different policy approaches to flexibilisation and the work-family balance. However, we have also endeavoured to compare Western European EU countries with a range of Eastern European candidate countries in this analysis to understand the effect of such trends across Europe generally. Consequently, the countries chosen were Sweden, the UK, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. The research team represent a cross-disciplinary group of sociologists, economists, educationalists and social policy specialists.

The main research instruments are a quantitative representative sample survey in each country and an analysis of policies and labour market trends. The survey was carried out in the first half of 2001 and involved a representative sample of at least 1000 respondents in each country aged 18 to 65 who were also asked about other household members4. The policy and labour market analysis are the subjects of other reports in the HWF Series of research Reports5.

The project is intended to look not just at the behaviour of people in the labour market (taking into account both domestic, informal and formal employment) but also their attitudes and values in respect to it. Thus we wanted to explore ways
in which people feel that family and work should be combined and whether their work impinges on family life. We also explore the conflicts and tensions that this might generate within the household as well as the extent to which actors in the labour market are able to control their conditions of work and how they view them.

The Country Contextual Reports covered the following topics:

- Demographic trends
- Employment trends
- Labour market policies
- Social policies related to family and work

**Note from the technical editor**

Individual chapters of this volume contain tables and figures that have been submitted for publication in different standards and shapes. The shapes of these objects were partially standardized where possible; otherwise they are structured according to their original design, as presented by the authors.

Alexander Chvorostov

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**NOTES**

1. The official web-site of the HWF project is available here: [http://www.hwf.at](http://www.hwf.at)

2. **HWF Series of Project Research Reports.** Five books, six volumes. ISSN 1682-9131. Published by the HWF Research Consortium and the IHS-Vienna in 2002-2003. Editor Prof. Claire Wallace

3. See purchasing and subscription details here: [http://www.hwf.at/project_reports.html](http://www.hwf.at/project_reports.html)

4. The HWF Survey is analysed in the following books:

   **HWF Series of Project Research Reports.** ISSN 1682-9131.

   Research Report # 3: “Survey report by countries” (480 pages)

   Research Report # 4. “HWF Survey comparative reports”
   Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna, 2003 (Forthcoming)
   Volume One “Cross-country overview and reference tables”
   Volume Two “Thematic reports”

5. See the following books: **HWF Series of Project Research Reports.** ISSN 1682-9131.

   Research Report # 1: “Critical review of literature and discourses about flexibility” (234 pages)


Annex
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Sicherl, Pavle (Slovenia), 2002, Development distances in Southeast Europe, IB revija, XXXVI, no. 1, pp. 59-77


* Please contact authors or the team leaders if you wish to request a copy of the published matters. Contact information for teams is provided on the third page of the cover to this report.

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Sik, Endre (HU), 17 December 2001, Several women are employed part-time, Magyar Hírlap (Hungarian newspaper).

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Stepankova, Petra (CZ), 27.8.01, Flexible forms of work, EURO No. 35.

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Vecernik, Jiri (CZ), 23.9.02, Focus behind facades of firms, Respekt No. 39.

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The five reports are dedicated to various aspects of the problem-filed flexibility, home and labour market. The following countries are covered: **UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria**.

The analysis is based upon a comparative survey along with labour market and social policy studies. Some reports are collections with chapters representing each individual country report and some are comparative reports where the chapters represent instead different themes, written by different team members.

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The aim of the project is to look at how different kinds of work are combined within households and how social and labour market policies in different countries affect this. With debates about flexibility taking place in many European countries, the project considers what effects different policies regarding flexible employment might have for the daily lives of people and families.

An important aspect of this is the gendered division of work both inside and outside of the home and the combinations of paid and unpaid work.

The different countries represented in the project provide contrasting examples of different approaches to flexibility and also the possibility of an East/West comparison.

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Series of HWF Research reports (ISSN 1682-9131):

Editor: Claire Wallace, 2002, pp. 234; Price per copy: EUR 30,=.

HWF Research Report # 2. Country contextual reports
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ISSN 1682-9131