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Research Report #4

HWF SURVEY: COMPARATIVE REPORT

Volume Two
THEMATIC REPORTS

Edited by Claire Wallace

Project funded and supported by the European Community

Project coordinated by the Institut für Höhere Studien (IHS), Wien
Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Series of project research reports

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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 "HWF Survey Comparative Report Volume 2" is the second volume of the fourth 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 provide a detailed analysis of the various themes and problems covered by the project divided according to flexibility and family-work relations on a comparative basis. 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 Dr. Sergei Nagaev for thorough processing, harmonization and cleaning of HWF Survey data sets, Mr. Radu Dobreci for his help with the layout of the published reports and to Dr. Alexander Chvorostov for his energetic and careful guidance and editing of HWF research reports.
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## ANNEX
Summary of the HWF Survey fieldwork [ III ]  Brief information on authors [ V ] Related publications of Consortium Members [ VII ]  Order Form and Prospectus [ XIII ]
The HWF survey comparative reports (thematic papers) constitute Deliverable number 13 (Work-package # 6) of 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 project. Many documents can be downloaded cost free at that address; the full collection HWF research reports (five issues) can be purchased from the library of the coordinating institution IHS-Vienna.

This report is the second volume of the comparative report on the surveys. The first volume examines standardised cross-tabulation tables for many variables analysed. The given report uses more refined and multivariate analysis to focus on particular topics in detail. The 12 papers presented here are divided into two groups:

**Part One** is about labour market flexibility;  
**Part Two** looks at family-work interactions.

The countries covered in the comparative data set are: the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Some papers focus on only a part of these countries.

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 represents 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 members. A more detailed account of the survey can be found in Appendix 1 to this book as well as in the first volume of this Report5. The comparative study of the labour market and social policies6 concludes the series of HWF Research and shall be published shortly in the Spring 2003.

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 explored ways in which people feel that family and work should be combined and whether their work impinges on family life. We also explored the conflicts and tensions that this might generate within the household. Finally, we explored the extent to which actors in the labour market are able to control their conditions of work and how they view them.

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

NOTES

1. The official web-site of the HWF project is available here: 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
5. Ibid.
PART ONE

HWF Survey results:
LABOUR MARKET FLEXIBILITY
PART TWO

HWF Survey results:

FAMILY WORK
RELATIONS
### HWF SURVEY: SHORT DESCRIPTION

#### the United Kingdom

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<td><strong>NFO World Group</strong> (formally System Three Social Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wembley Point, Harrow Road, Wembley Middlesex HA9 6DE, UK</td>
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<td>Stoas PO box 78, 6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands</td>
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<td><strong>Public Opinion and Mass Communication Research Center (CJMMK)</strong>, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Kardeljeva ploscad 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia</td>
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* Conventional sample includes only persons aged between 18 and 65.
** For Sweden, the Conventional sample does not include IT workers.
### Czech Republic

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| **Field agency** | STEM - Centre for empirical research  
Jilska 1, 110 00, Praha 1 |
| **Date of the survey** | January 03, 2001 – June 10, 2001 |

### Hungary

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| **Field agency** | THE TÁRKI GROUP  
TARKI, Budaörsi út 45, 1112 Budapest, Hungary |
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| **Field agency** | Fact Sociological Agency,  
Sofia 1000, 6th of September Street, No. 6B, Bulgaria |
| **Date of the survey** | February 1, 2001 – March 5, 2001 |

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| **Field agency** | The Institute for the Study of the Quality of Life,  
Bucharest, Sector 5, Calea 13 Septembrie, No. 13, Romania |
| **Date of the survey** | February 1, 2001 – March 5, 2001 |

* Conventional sample includes only persons aged between 18 and 65.
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RELATED PUBLICATIONS*

of members of the HWF Research Consortium

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES AND BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF HWF TEAMS

Cousins, Christine (UK), Sept. 2001, Organising and analysing small-scale qualitative studies of families, In L. Hantrais (ed.) Family and Welfare from an International Comparative Perspective’ Brussels: Directorate Technology Foresight and Socio-economic Research, European Communities.


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Jager, Annet and Kops, Yvonne and van der Lippe, Tanja (NL), 2003, The work-family balance for couples in Europe. A comparative analysis on combination pressure in six European countries, Workpackage No. 6 The Netherlands.(this paper will also be used for dissemination)


* 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.

Selected publications are also available on the HWF home page <www.hwf.at>

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Kovacheva, Siyka (BG), 2003, Trends toward flexible employment under the conditions of economic transformation in Bulgaria, Proceedings of the University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, Vol. 3.

Pajnkihar, Tatjana (Slovenia), 2003, Flexibility of work in Slovenia with regard to perceptions of enterprises and individuals, Working paper, SICENTER.

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Vecernik, Jiri (CZ), 2003, Work values and perceived conditions in CEE and EU countries, WP Series of the Institute of Sociology, forthcoming

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Cousins, Christine and Tang, Ning (UK), May 2002, ‘ Fathers feel guilty for working long hours’, Press release report in 22 regional newspapers and local radio

Nagy Ildikó (HU), 21 August 2001, “Reconciling Work and Private Life is the Most Difficult”,


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Remec, Matija (Slovenia), 13th Sep. 2001, Approach to phenomena of information society in Slovenia (in Slovenian), Telecommunications 01

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

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Stepankova, Petra (CZ), 26.11.02, Labour market and family policy, Socialni politika No. 12

Vecerník, Jiri (CZ), 19.2.01, Overstated self-evaluation, EURO No. 8

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Vecerník, Jiri and Stepánkova, Petra (CZ), 18.1.01, Debate on unemployment, Radio channel Radio-journal

Vecerník, Jiri and Stepánkova, Petra (CZ), 27.1.03, Flexibility of the Labour market III (Nobody will be guaranteed a life-long job), Profit No.4 p: 5

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Vecerník, Jiri (CZ), 13.1.03, Is work just a pain? , Daily Mlada fronta DNES

Vecerník, Jiri (CZ), 14.2.03, Turn the crisis into prosperity. , Daily Mlada fronta DNES

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

Vecerník, Jiri (CZ), 6.4. 01., Czech chicken, European egg , Daily Mlada fronta DNES

Vecerník, Jiri (CZ), 9.7.01, Show your flexibility, Respekt No. 28.
Members of HWF Research Consortium

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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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