

an international
research project
[2000-2003]



HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY

Series of project research reports

United Kingdom
the Netherlands
Sweden
Slovenia
Czech Republic
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Romania

Research Report #2

COUNTRY CONTEXTUAL REPORTS

**Demographic trends,
labour market and
social policies**

**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



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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.

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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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▶ **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION

Overview: Households, Work and Flexibility [5]

CHAPTER ONE

Country context: United Kingdom [7]

CHAPTER TWO

Country context: the Netherlands [43]

CHAPTER THREE

Country context: Sweden [93]

CHAPTER FOUR

Country context: Slovenia [135]

CHAPTER FIVE

Country context: Czech Republic [169]

CHAPTER SIX

Country context: Hungary [199]

CHAPTER SEVEN

Country context: Bulgaria [239]

CHAPTER EIGHT

Country context: Romania [295]

ANNEX

Authors | Publications | Order Form | Members of Consortium

Introduction

►► HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY Country Contextual Reports

[Claire Wallace, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna]

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

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
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)
 Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna 2003.
 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)
 Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna 2002.
 Research Report # 2: "Country contextual reports: Demographic trends, labour market and social policies" (360 pages) Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna 2003.
 Research Report # 5: "Comparative Contextual Report: Demographic trends, labour market and social policies." Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna 2003 (Forthcoming).

Annex

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*

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

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- Vecernik, Jiri** (CZ), 23.9.02, Focus behind the facades of firms, Weekly Respekt No. 39.
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A series of HWF Research reports represents the main findings and outcomes of the research project “*Households, Work and Flexibility*” (2000-2003), funded by the programme “*Improving Human Research Potential & the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base*” of the European Community.

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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<p>HWF Research Report # 1. <i>Critical review of literature and discourses about flexibility.</i> Editor: Claire Wallace. 2002, pp.234.</p>	<p>This is a report of the state of the art literature reviews in each country, along with an overview from the editor. The literature reviews indicate the kinds of discourses about flexibility emerging in each country. Structure: 8 countries, 9 chapters</p>
<p>HWF Research Report # 2. <i>Country contextual reports</i> <i>(Demographic trends, labour market and social policies).</i> Editor: Claire Wallace, 2003. pp.356.</p>	<p>This report comprises chapters from each country, where the different national teams have carried out analysis of the social policy and labour market trends from their own countries. Structure: 8 countries, 8 chapters and Introduction</p>
<p>HWF Research Report # 3. <i>HWF Survey report by countries.</i> Editor: Claire Wallace, 2003. Forthcoming.</p>	<p>This report comprises chapters from each country, where the different national teams have carried out analysis of the survey data from their own countries. Structure: 8 countries, 8 chapters and Introduction</p>
<p>HWF Research Report # 4. <i>HWF Survey comparative report</i> <i>(two volumes).</i> Editor: Claire Wallace, 2003. Forthcoming.</p>	<p>This report is divided according to different analytical themes where comparative analysis was carried out of the whole data set by different team members. Volume One: <i>Cross-country overview and reference tables</i> Volume Two: <i>Thematic papers</i> (11 chapters and Introduction).</p>
<p>HWF Research Report # 5. <i>Comparative contextual report.</i> <i>(Demographic trends, labour market and social policies).</i> Editor: Claire Wallace, 2003. Forthcoming.</p>	<p>This report represents a comparative analysis of the labour market and social policy trends in each country.</p>

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HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY

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HWF research project

HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY

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.

PUBLICATIONS OF HWF RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

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HWF Research Report # 1. Critical Review of literature and discourses about flexibility.

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