

an international
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[2000-2003]



HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY

Series of project research reports

United Kingdom
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Research Report #4

**HWf SURVEY:
COMPARATIVE REPORT**

**Volume One
CROSS-COUNTRY OVERVIEW
AND REFERENCE TABLES**

**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 "HWF Survey Comparative Report Volume 1" is the first 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". The first section of the report provides a selective overview of the main findings of the survey carried out in 2001 in 8 countries as part of the project. The second section includes a selection of reference tables representing the numeric outcome of the HWF Survey. These tables are broken down by age, income, sex, education and urban-rural dimensions. 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).

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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 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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Preface

► HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY Survey Comparative Report (Volume 1: Cross-country overview and reference tables)

Overview: HWF Survey comparative report

[Claire Wallace, Alexander Chvorostov, Sergei Nagaev
Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna]

This book is produced as a deliverable # 13 (workpackage 6) 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.

The project is designed to look at the relationship between households and the kinds of work undertaken by households, 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 ECE Accession 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 selection of these countries enables us to compare Eastern and Western Europe, or what we have termed here East-Central European or ECE countries, that have now started the process of acceding to the European Union. It also enables us to compare countries within the EU and within ECE. 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 project 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. The policy and labour market analysis is available in a series of reports² (see below). This report represents the main comparative analysis of the survey results. However, survey results by country are available as reports as

well³. In addition there is a volume (Volume 2 of this report), which comprises papers on specific themes using the combined data set⁴.

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. In other words, what Glucksman (1995)⁵ has called the Total Social Organisation of Labour. Thus we 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.

In the survey we took a very broad view of flexibility, including flexibility of hours, place and contract. However, we also looked at the accumulation of jobs and income sources undertaken by individuals and households. We have used only those tables, which have higher totals and rejected those with low numbers. Hence only a selection of the material is presented here.

The first part of this volume is a cross-country overview of the main outcomes of the HWF Survey. In the second part of this book, we publish a selection of the comparative tables resulting from the primary analysis of the outcomes of the HWF survey in order to give a descriptive overview of the data yielded in the course of the study.

Technical details and instructions how to read and interpret the tables are provided in the *Introductory note to the reference tables* in the beginning of the second part of the book.

In Annex I you can find the master Questionnaire of the HWF Survey to which the tables relate and in Annex II you can find a technical description of the survey. Annex III describes the way in which income and education were calculated for the whole survey and for individual countries. Other annexes contain information on the authors, related publications of members of the HWF Research Consortium, as well the Order Form and Prospectus of the series of HWF Research Reports.

NOTES:

1. The official web-site of the HWF project is available here: <http://www.hwf.at>
2. 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.
3. **HWF Series of Project Research Reports**. ISSN 1682-9131.
 Research Report # 3: **"Survey report by countries"** (480 pages)
 Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna 2003.
4. **HWF Series of Project Research Reports**. ISSN 1682-9131.
 Research Report # 4. **"HWF Survey comparative reports", volume two "Thematic reports"**
 Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna, 2003
5. Glucksman, Miriam A. Why Work? Gender and the 'Total Social Organisation of Labour'. *Gender, Work and Organisations*. 1995; 2(2):63-75.

▶ HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY
HWF Survey Comparative Report
(Volume 1: Cross-country overview and reference tables)

▶▶ PART ONE

**CROSS-
COUNTRY
OVERVIEW**

[Claire Wallace, Alexander Chvorostov, Sergei Nagaev
Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna]



▶ PART ONE

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CROSS- COUNTRY REFERENCE TABLES

[Claire Wallace, Alexander Chvorostov, Sergei Nagaev
Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna]



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► RELATED PUBLICATIONS*

of members of the HWF Research Consortium

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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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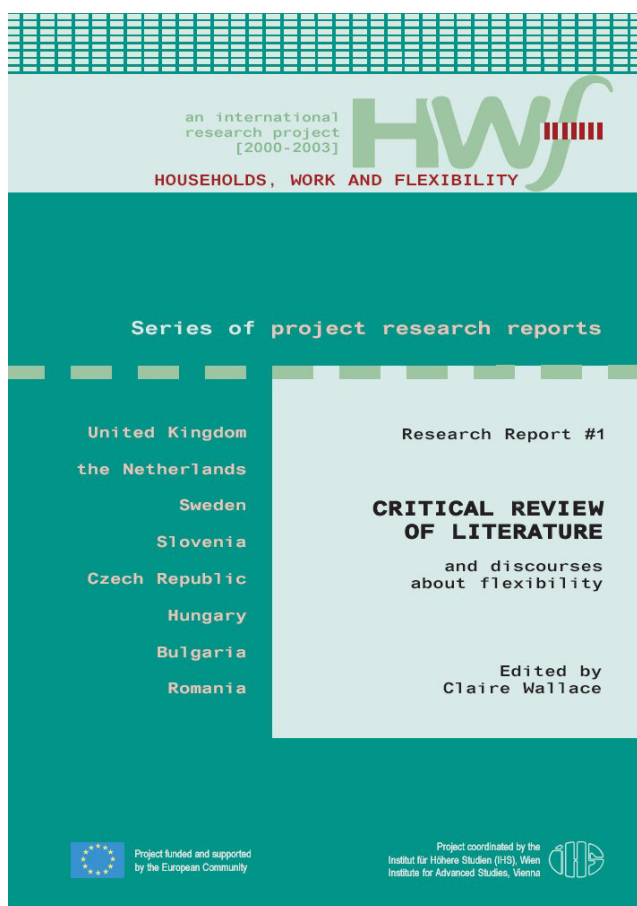
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Series of HWF Project Research Reports

ISSN: 1682-9131

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: **United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria.**

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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.

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