

an international
research project
[2000-2003]



HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY

Series of project research reports

United Kingdom
the Netherlands
Sweden
Slovenia
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Hungary
Bulgaria
Romania

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



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Human Research Potential & the Socio-economic
Knowledge base" of the European Community

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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).

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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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Introduction

► HOUSEHOLDS, WORK AND FLEXIBILITY Survey Comparative Report (Volume 2: Thematic Reports)

Overview: HWF Survey comparative papers

[Claire Wallace, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna]

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 project¹. Many 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.

This report is the second volume of the comparative report on the surveys. The first volume⁴ 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
4. **HWF Series of Project Research Reports.** ISSN 1682-9131. Research Report # 4. 'HWF Survey comparative reports'. Volume One "**Cross-country overview and reference tables**". Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna, 2003
5. Ibid.
6. **HWF Series of Project Research Reports.** ISSN 1682-9131. Research Report # 5. "**Comparative contextual report**". Editor Prof. Claire Wallace. Vienna, 2003 (Forthcoming)

▶▶ **PART ONE**

HWF Survey results:

LABOUR MARKET FLEXIBILITY



▶▶ PART TWO

HWF Survey results:

FAMILY WORK RELATIONS

Annex

▶▶ HWF SURVEY: SHORT DESCRIPTION

the United Kingdom

<i>General sample size</i>	945
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	941
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	NFO World Group (formally System Three Social Research) Wembley Point, Harrow Road, Wembley Middlesex HA9 6DE, UK
<i>Date of the survey</i>	February 19, 2001 – May 8, 2001

The Netherlands

<i>General sample size</i>	1007
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	1007
<i>Method of interview</i>	Telephone interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	Desan market research Stoas PO box 78, 6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands
<i>Date of the survey</i>	March 12, 2001 – April 9, 2001

Sweden

<i>General sample size</i>	2292
<i>Conventional sample**(*)</i>	1284
<i>Method of interview</i>	Survey was conducted by using postal method.
<i>Field agency</i>	Statistics Sweden SCB S-701 89 ÖREBRO, Sweden
<i>Date of the survey</i>	February 19, 2001 – May 8, 2001

Slovenia

<i>General sample size</i>	1008
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	839
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	Public Opinion and Mass Communication Research Center (CJMMK) , Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Kardeljeva ploscad 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
<i>Date of the survey</i>	April 20, 2001 – June 12, 2001

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

** For Sweden, the Conventional sample does not include IT workers.

Czech Republic

<i>General sample size</i>	1556
<i>Conventional sample*(*)</i>	1556
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	STEM - Centre for empirical research Jilska 1, 110 00, Praha 1
<i>Date of the survey</i>	January 03, 2001 – June 10, 2001

Hungary

<i>General sample size</i>	1116
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	1116
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	THE TÁRKI GROUP TARKI, Budaörsi út 45, 1112 Budapest, Hungary
<i>Date of the survey</i>	January 31, 2001 – February 07, 2001

Bulgaria

<i>General sample size</i>	1864
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	1806
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	Fact Sociological Agency, Sofia 1000, 6 th of September Street, No. 6B, Bulgaria
<i>Date of the survey</i>	February 1, 2001 – March 5, 2001

Romania

<i>General sample size</i>	1864
<i>Conventional sample (*)</i>	1524
<i>Method of interview</i>	Personal face-to-face interviews with trained interviewers.
<i>Field agency</i>	The Institute for the Study of the Quality of Life, Bucharest, Sector 5, Calea 13 Septembrie, No. 13, Romania
<i>Date of the survey</i>	February 1, 2001 – March 5, 2001

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

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in order of appearance in the book

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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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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.

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