

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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Human Research Potential & the Socio-economic  
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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).

## 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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**HWF Project Co-ordinator**    **Prof. Claire Wallace (IHS, Austria)**

**Team leaders**    Christine Cousins (United Kingdom)  
Yvonne Kops (the Netherlands)  
Thomas Boje (Sweden)  
Pavle Sicherl (Slovenia)  
Jiří Večerník (Czech Republic)  
Endre Sik (Hungary)  
Siyka Kovacheva (Bulgaria)  
Manuela Stanculescu (Romania)

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**Contact details**    for HWF Partners are provided on the third page of the cover

**ISSN**    **1 682-9131**

**Published by**    the HWF Research Consortium <www.hwf.at>

**Coordinated and distributed by**    the Institute for Advanced Studies / Institut für Höhere Studien (IHS),  
Stumpergasse 56, A-1060 Vienna, Austria <www.ihs.ac.at>

**Publication manager and editor**    Alexander Chvorostov <alex.chv@ihs.ac.at>

**Original design of the series by**    Wolfgang Weitlaner <wwaitlan@yahoo.com>  
**Technical layout by**    Radu Dobreci <raduangel2002@yahoo.com>

**First published in**    November 2003

**Printed by**    facultas digitaldruck, Augasse 2-6, 1090 Wien <www.facultas.at>

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**Project funded by**    the European Community under the FP5 programme "Improving  
Human Research Potential & the Socio-economic Knowledge Base"

**Contract №**    HPSE-CT-1999-0030  
**Project №**    SERD-1999-00178



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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]

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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 project<sup>1</sup>.

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 reports<sup>2</sup> (see below). This report represents the main comparative analysis of the survey results. However, survey results by country are available as reports as

well<sup>3</sup>. In addition there is a volume (Volume 2 of this report), which comprises papers on specific themes using the combined data set<sup>4</sup>.

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)<sup>5</sup> 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
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**▶▶ 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

## CROSS-COUNTRY OVERVIEW

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# **▶▶ PART TWO**

# **CROSS- COUNTRY REFERENCE TABLES**

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



# ▶▶ PART TWO

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## ► BRIEF INFORMATION ON AUTHORS

**Claire Wallace (IHS, Austria)** Prof. Claire Wallace is co-ordinator of the HWF project. She is Head of the Department of Sociology at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna, Austria. Claire Wallace is also visiting professor at the Glasgow Caledonian University, UK and has been undertaking work on transformations in Eastern and Central Europe for the last decade.

**Sergei Nagaev (IHS, Austria)** Dr. Sergei Nagaev is a research fellow at the Economics Department of the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and a co-worker of the HWF project. He specializes in data processing of sociological and statistical data and data base development.

**Alexander Chvorostov (IHS, Austria)** Dr. Alexander Chvorostov is a research fellow at the Sociology Department of the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and a co-worker of the HWF project. In addition to academic consulting, he works as administrative co-ordinator of the project and technical editor of all official HWF publications.

## ► RELATED PUBLICATIONS\*

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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.

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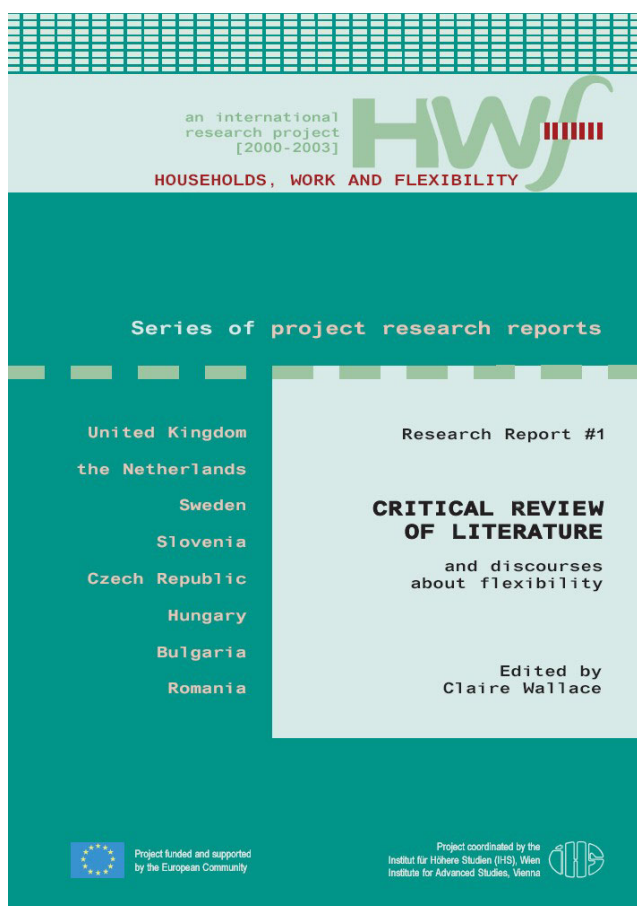
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ISSN: 1682-9131

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<i>country</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>e-mail</i>	<i>institutional address</i>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Claire Wallace</b> (coordinator)	wallace@ihs.ac.at	<b>Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS-Vienna), Stumpergasse 56, A-1060 Vienna, Austria</b>
	Alexander Chvorostov	alex.chv@ihs.ac.at	
	Sergej Nagaev	sergej@ihs.ac.at	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Christine Cousins (team leader)	c.r.cousins@herts.ac.uk	HRMST Dept., Lindop Building Hatfield Campus, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield Herts. AL10 9AB, UK
	Ning Tang	n.tang@herts.ac.uk	
<b>the Netherlands</b>	Yvonne Kops (team leader)	yko@stoas.nl	STOAS, Agro-Business Park 10 P.O.Box 78 6700 AB Wageningen, the Netherlands
	Annet Jager	anj@stoas.nl	
<b>Sweden</b>	Thomas Boje (team leader)	boje@ruc.dk	Insitute 8, Roskilde University, 1, University Road, PO Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde Denmark International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria
	Mattias Strandth	strand@iiasa.ac.at mattias.strandth@soc.umu.se	
<b>Slovenia</b>	Pavle Sicherl (team leader)	pavle.sicherl@sicenter.si	SICENTER, Brajnikova 19, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
	Matija Remec	mat@ris.org	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Jiri Vecernik (team leader)	vecernik@soc.cas.cz	Institute of Sociology Academy of Science Jilská 1, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic
	Petra Stepankova	petra_stepankova@yahoo.com	
<b>Hungary</b>	Endre Sik (team leader)	sik@tarki.hu	TARKI Hungary 1112 Budapest, Budaörsi út 45.
	Márton Medgyesi	medgyesi@tarki.hu	
	Ildikó Nagy	nagyildi@tarki.hu	
	Mariann Kopasz	mkopasz@tech.ibs-b.hu	IBS Hungary 1026 Budapest, Tárogató u. 2-4.
	Maarten Keune	maarten.keune@iue.it	EUI, Badia Fiesolana, I-50016 San Domenico (FI), Italy
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Siyka Kovacheva (team leader)	kovachev@netvisio.net	University of Plovdiv, Dept. of Social Sciences, POB 33, Plovdiv, 4002 Bulgaria
	Tatjana Pancheva	tania_pan@abv.bg	
<b>Romania</b>	Manuela Stanculescu (team leader)	manuela@iccv.ro	ICCV Calea 13 Septembrie No.13 Sector 5 cod 76 117 Bucharest, Romania

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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.

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