

Partners:

University of Aberdeen, Scotland:

Professor Claire Wallace:

Claire.wallace@abdn.ac.uk

Professor Bernadette Hayes: b.hayes@abdn.ac.uk

Mag. Florian Pichler: florian.pichler@abdn.ac.uk

University of Warsaw,

Institute for Social Studies, Poland:

Professor Renate Siemienska: siemiens@post.pl

Economics University of Vienna, Austria

Dr. Barbara Haas: barbara.haas@wu-wien.ac.at

Nadia Steiber: nadia.steiber@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

Margit Hartl: margit.hartel@univie.ac.at

University of Roskilde, Denmark

Professor Thomas Boje: boje@ruc.dk

Anders Ernaes

University of Sussex, UK

Dr. Jacqueline O'Reilly: jo40@sussex.ac.uk

Dr. John MacInnes: john.macinnes@ed.ac.uk

Dr. Ruth Woodfield: R. Woodfield@sussex.ac.uk

Nuffield College Oxford:

Dr. Tiziana Nazio:

tiziana.nazio@sociology.ox.ac.uk

London School of Economics, UK

Professor Jane Lewis: j.lewis@lse.ac.uk

Glasgow Caledonian University, UK

Professor Pamela Abbott: p.abbott@gcal.ac.uk

TARKI Joint Research Centre, Hungary

Professor Endre Sik: sik@tarki.hu

Andras Gabos: gabos@tarki.hu

CIES/ISCTE, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Professor Analia Torres: Analia.torres@iscte.pt

University of Florence DISPP, Italy

Associate Professor Rossanna Triffiletti:

rtrifil@tin.it

Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

Dr. Liliana Mateeva: mateeva@ihs.ac.at

Dr. Michaela Gstrein: gstrein@ihs.ac.at



Professor Claire Wallace

School of Social Sciences

University of Aberdeen

AB24 3QY

Tel: ++44 1224 273137

Fax: ++44 1224 273442

Email: Claire.wallace@abn.ac.uk



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WORKCARE

Social quality and
changing relationships
between work, care and
welfare in Europe



Workcare

Social quality and changing relationships between work, care and welfare in Europe

How do people manage their lives? How is work in the labour force and caring for children integrated in different European regions? What is a good work-life balance? The way in which work and care are managed depends upon the different social and labour market policies in different countries. It also depends upon the values or goals that people might have – for example one couple might think it is important to care for their children themselves and not involve outside agencies, whereas another might prefer to use nurseries. These values or cultures of care also vary across Europe.

At present the European Commission is trying to encourage as many people to be in the workforce as possible. This is framed in what is known as the “Lisbon strategy”. However, it is also important to encourage households to have children in the face of an ageing population. These perhaps contradictory policies mean that a lot of stress is put onto households to manage work and care. This project will investigate how this takes place.

Workcare is a project funded under the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission

Workcare on the internet

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/research/nec/workcare/>

About Workcare

Workcare is a research project drawing upon the collaboration of 10 different institutional partners and 12 partners altogether.

It runs for three years from October 2006 to September 2009.

Its aims are:

- To describe and analyse the European-wide patterning of welfare, work and care drawing upon a variety of methods and sources including quantitative data (ECHP, ESS, ISSP, WVS, EVS) and qualitative interviews with selected households
- To develop and apply a social quality perspective, enabling a synthesis of macro and micro levels of analysis
- To analyse social policies for work and care at both a European and a national level
- To explain the transitions between work and care on a comparative basis
- To bring in an agency or capabilities perspective on the analysis of work and care by trying to understand the underlying values, cultures and strategies of households in Europe.
- To look at the role of flexibility in understanding the combinations of work and care both inside and outside the formal labour market.

The project will last three years. Information can be found on the website:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/research/nec/workcare/>

The **WORKCARE** project is supported by the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission.

Publications

The reports that derive from the Workcare research programme will be published on the website as they become available. There is a deliverable report assigned to each of the workpackages, but there may also be additional publications in the form of seminar papers, journal articles and so on. These are summarised in a series of brochures to enable easy access. Brochures will be published both in hard copy and on the home page.

Dialogue and Dissemination

The Workcare project aims to contribute towards policy discussions at both a European and a national level. We therefore welcome any interest in the project or any comments and feedback.

The work of the project will be disseminated to the general public as well as to an academic audience through networks and presentations.

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