NGO FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family ✉

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Dear Readers of Families International,

This 102nd issue focuses on a presentation by Dr. Corinna Peil, from the University of Salzburg, at an International Forum entitled: 'Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures' organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, which took place on Monday June 12th 2017, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre, to observe the International Day of Families (IDF) 2017.

Dr. Peil has kindly provided an extensive article, included in this issue, which inter-alia states that: "The home is the place where people often get to know the functions and benefits of a new technology for the first time, where participation is promoted and where each single medium is allocated its specific position within the whole set of domestic media. It is also the place where gender roles and generation identities come into effect and are mirrored in the use of media. Furthermore, media have always played a role in restructuring the boundaries between the domestic sphere and the outside world." (Peil, 2017, 1)

The United Nations also observed IDF this year in New York with a briefing entitled: Families, Education & Well-Being, which included a presentation on How Media Affects Children's Development and How Parents Can Help by Michael Robb, Director of Research, Common Sense Media
cf. https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/idf2017.html

Further included in this issue Nr. 102 are texts from Member Organisation of the Committee as well as a list of recent and upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Peter Crowley Ph.D.

Editor

NGO FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

UNITED NATIONS
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Monday June 12th 2017

CONFERENCE ROOM CO237

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES 2017

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

10.00 – 12.30

'Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures'

Dr. Corinna Peil
University of Salzburg

Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.30

Discussion with Presenter & Participants
11.30 – 12.30

Lunch
12.30 – 14.00

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Mag. Dr. Corinna Peil is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Salzburg since 2012. Dr. Peil earned her PhD in cultural media studies from the Leuphana University (Lueneburg / Germany) with a dissertation on mobile media culture in Japan. From 2004 to 2012, Dr. Peil was a member of the research and teaching staff at the Leuphana University's Institute of Communications and Media Cultur. Until recently, Corinna Peil has been involved in the project; "The Mediatized Home. Changes of Domestic Communication Cultures" which is part of a larger program called "Mediatized Worlds" (2010 - 2016). Dr. Peil has been a visiting lecturer at the Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Klagenfurt and the University of Muenster. Her research interests include mobile communication, media (de-)convergence, the domestication and diffusion of new media technologies, the mediatization of society and the history of media use in everyday life contexts. Corinna Peil is a member of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

14:00 - 15.30: ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

(i)   Approval of the Agenda

(ii)   Approval of the Minutes of the Full Committee Meeting November 7th 2016

(iii)   Report of the Chairperson

(iv)   Plan of Action 2017

(v)   Financial Report

(vi)   Report of the Auditors

(vii)   Budget 2017

(viii)   Reports from Member Organisations

(ix)   Any other Business

(x)   Date and Place of next Full Committee Meeting: November 6th 2017

Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures

Corinna Peil (July 2017)

1. Introduction

Undeniably, the internet has brought about some enormous changes with regard to all spheres of everyday life, culture and society. Reasons for this are less to be found in its technological capacities and affordances but rather in the new ways people communicate, act and relate to each other when they make use of the manifold possibilities offered by online media. In light of today's omnipresence of the internet and people being permanently connected, it is hard to imagine that 20 years ago – before the technological aspects of the internet have almost completely shifted into invisibility – 'being online' meant something fundamentally different from today. Above all, 'being online' was anything but casual or habitualized. It was a form of targeted media consumption, which had to be initiated and ended with a certain routine. Once connected, the internet was often awfully slow; the few pages that were accessible in the early days usually took a long time to fully build up. Also, the use of the internet could easily become a costly affair, as each commenced minute was billed to the user. Some years later, the digital telephone network ISDN introduced some improvements, for example the possibility of simultaneously using the internet and the telephone, or a more comfortable dial-up to the internet. However, there was still a long way ahead, before powerful high-speed connections, affordable flat-rate tariffs and Wireless networks became the norm.

The following article is looking at the gradual changes of everyday life that have started with the integration of the internet into the home. It is particularly focusing the household as well as domestic routines and communication patterns of couples living together with or without children. This way it meets the need to understand the internet as a social medium which is significantly shaped by the social interactions and arrangements performed and negotiated at home.

Through the long-term perspective, it can be shown that the domestic sphere is a crucial factor for understanding the meaning of online media and their appropriation. The home is the place where people often get to know the functions and benefits of a new technology for the first time, where participation is promoted and where each single medium is allocated its specific position within the whole set of domestic media. It is also the place where gender roles and generation identities come into effect and are mirrored in the use of media. Furthermore, media have always played a role in restructuring the boundaries between the domestic sphere and the outside world. With the internet and the variety of online media, these boundaries have become more porous and the private home is more and more infiltrated by tasks, demands and responsibilities that were previously delegated to the external sphere.

The empirical insights discussed in this article are informed by a series of research projects on the Domestication of the internet in Germany and the Mediatized Home, running from 2008 to 2016. These projects were headed by Prof. Jutta Röser from the University of Münster in Germany and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). They were part of the priority program "Mediatized Worlds" (2010-2016) which aimed at linking different research endeavors to explore the increased pervasion of media and communication in different life worlds and its specific impacts and consequences (Krotz & Hepp 2012; Krotz et al. 2014, 2017). With a view to media education and media use in family settings, the outlined research on internet domestication and the mediatization of the home can help to better understand the close connection between the meaning of media, their relationship to other media, and the relevance of the wider social context of daily routines, arrangements, and communication in the home.

Project Titles and Duration:	The Domestication of the Internet in Germany 1997-2007 (2008-2010)
	The Mediatized Home I-III: A Qualitative Panel Study on the Changes of Domestic Communication Cultures (2010-2016)
Funding body :	German Research Foundation (DFG)
	Priority Program "Mediatized Worlds" (2010-2016)
Principal Investigator:	Prof. Dr. Jutta Röser (University of Münster, Germany)
Project Team:	Dr. Kathrin Müller (University of Münster, Germany)
	Stephan Niemand, M.A. (University of Münster, Germany)
	Ulrike Roth, M.A. (University of Münster, Germany)
	Dr. Corinna Peil (University of Salzburg, Austria)
Objective:	Understanding the development and usage of the internet and other domestic media with regard to the household and to family, generation, and gender constellations in a long-term, user-centered perspective
Methodology:	Qualitative, ethnographically oriented long-term study with a sample of 25 cohabiting heterosexual couples
	t1 2008 + retrospective → t2 2011 → t3 2013 → t4 2016

Figure 1: Overview of project series

2. Theoretical background: domestication and mediatization

Theoretical input comes from the domestication approach which describes and analyses the process in which new media technologies move into the household and become part of everyday life (e.g. Silverstone & Haddon 1996; Silverstone et al. 1992; Röser 2007; Peil & Röser 2012, 2014; Berker et al. 2006). Domestication theory is concerned with allocating technologies a physical and symbolic place within the domestic sphere and aims at understanding media use with regard to the house-hold and to family, generation and gender constellations. The approach perceives the social ar-rangements and activities of the users as crucial factors for the implementation and appropriation of new technologies. Media technologies are not thought of as developing to an inner logic but are considered as 'something social' (Hynes & Richard-son 2009: 483) – as something that is defined by social actions and negotiations rather than by technical properties. Domestication is seen as an on-going process that is never entirely successful or completed, but is rather likely to include processes

of re- and de-domestication (Peil & Röser 2007). Rooted in British and European cultural media studies, the approach has emerged from ethnographic research traditions that were pioneering the idea to analyze media use within the mundane surroundings of everyday life. Thus, instead of creating artificial research settings, domestication theory calls for the consideration of the situations, places and social constellations of media appropriation. This is also the backdrop of the home's centrality in the concept (Peil & Röser 2014). Domestic life is regarded as meaning-giving sphere and key context of media appropriation. On these grounds, the approach focuses on the entanglement of different domestic practices, mediated and non-mediated, and links them back to discourses and changes in society.

According to domestication theory and its assumption of the "double articulation" (Silverstone & Haddon 1996) of media technologies, meanings are assigned on two different levels: On the one hand, the symbolic level of media content is considered. On the other hand, meanings are attribut-ed to the technical artefact (e.g. when it is perceived as

'modern' or 'male') – the latter is about the appropriation of the material side of media technologies. The household is conceived as a cultural unit which is closely related to the public sphere (Silverstone et al. 1992: 16 et seq.). In taking into account both the micro level of domestic media use and the macro level of social participation and the politics of production, the domestication concept aims at providing a deeper understanding of the complex "relationship between private households and public worlds and the role of communication and information technologies in that relationship" (ibid.: 15).

Another theoretical contribution comes from mediatization theory which is engaged with media-related changes in communication and new ways of making sense of the world (Krotz et al. 2014, 2017; Krotz & Hepp 2012, 2014; Lundby 2009). The underlying assumption is that social action is in-creasingly molded by media communication (Hepp 2009). Mediatization, hence, refers to the cultural and social change related to the emergence and saturation of different forms of media com-munications in all spheres of everyday life. Mediatization is not a new phenomenon, already the emergence and spread of television in the 1950s, for example, was part of a broader mediatization process. It was accompanied by an alteration of domestic family rituals, a mobilization of lifestyles and a changing relationship between the public and the private sphere. Mediatization needs to be grasped as an ongoing, highly heterogeneous meta-process shaping modernity. Specifically charac-teristic of the present mediatization of culture and society is its intensification by the digitization and mobilization of all forms of media communication.

3. Methodology

As both domestication and mediatization refer to processes (Röser et al. 2017b), a long-term perspective seemed particularly beneficial to capture developments and changes over time. Against this background we conducted a qualitative panel study with examination periods in 2008, 2011, 2013, and 2016. Our main interests pertained to the integration of the internet into the household, its impact on the use and function of the other media in the home, and to the realignment of domestic interactions, arrangements and relationships. Overall questions addressed the changes of domestic

communication cultures, the promotion or hindrance of participation, and the shifting boundaries between the household and the outside world. The first examination phase aimed at the reconstruction of the appropriation and domestication of the internet when it was new. This phase of data-collection allowed us to retrace how the internet had become a domestic medium. The second, third and fourth examination periods focused on the further domestication of the internet as well as on the alteration of domestic communication cultures during the investigation period. We also wanted to learn how more general social discourses have become relevant in the home, for example with regard to doing gender processes.

All points of data collection were interrelated and overlapped in several ways. Our guiding principle was the commitment to ethnographically oriented research. In 2008, 2011 and 2013 we completed 25 household studies with the same cohabiting heterosexual couples in Germany. These visits to the couple's households included a guided interview, a home site inspection, and photographs of the media settings. In each examination period, additional instruments were applied, for example a timeline to support the reconstruction of the domestication process, or visualizing techniques that helped to express everyday life routines and practices (e.g. sketches of the domestic media settings). Additionally, we let the couples fill in written surveys prior to our visits in order to get information on what had happened since we last visited them. In 2016, the households answered to a written survey that was done in order to analyze the development of selected aspects of the fur-ther internet domestication and mediatization process. In total, 50 men and women responded to our questions. Since our primary interest was in the social situations and gender-related arrange-ments of media use, we interviewed husband and wife together. This approach also helped to fill in gaps, as the partners supported and validated each other's memories. The sample was systemati-cally quoted with regard to age and educational background. Other factors were considered, too, such as the date of internet acquisition, professional affinity and non-affinity to the internet, or children, housewives, and retirees within the household. Furthermore, a wide spectrum of occupations was inte-

grated into the sample representing the broad German middle class, its ways of life and domestic arrangements.

Figure 2: Photographs of the household's internet settings during the first examination period (2008)

For the data analysis, we developed the tool of "ethnographic household portraits" (Röser et al. 2017a) and complemented these portraits by summary reports centering on selected topics and comparisons with earlier findings. Here, we did not focus the single respondent and his or her media use, but instead considered the social constellation of the couple and the interrelations of various factors within the household. In this way, we were able to perform a context-oriented analysis of all domestic media activities and preferences. Through a typification of the households according to particular categories we were able to find some generalizable patterns of media use that de-scribe recent practices as well as long-term developments.

4. Findings

This article presents and discusses in more detail three findings of the empirical studies. They point to the importance of a process-oriented analysis which supports a well-balanced view on media developments and their impact.

4.1 Home is key

For media use, the home is central as the place where the decision over which medium to use at a given moment is made and where the interplay of old and new media is managed. It is the place where the media's functions are negotiated and set in relation to each other and where each single medium is allocated its specific role within the media ensemble. Our findings show that rather than a predominance of online media, there is a dynamic co-existence of old and new media which is carefully organized by the household members (Peil & Röser 2014; Müller & Röser 2017; Röser et al. 2017b). In most households, the internet was integrated into the existing media repertoire as a discrete element with specific gratifications. Its use was related to tasks that were not at all or only partially covered by the other media in the home – mainly the support of everyday life activities. This function can be seen as a central driver of domestication across all households: People make online purchases, communicate with authorities, administer their financial transactions or organize their mobility online when they look for train connection, travel destinations or the shortest way to a restaurant. This is why the respondents can no longer imagine

life without the internet. The internet has become so widespread and popular in the domestic realm because it provides services and contents which are useful in daily life. Hence, instead of substituting the purpose of older media, such as radio, television and newspapers, the internet began occupying a cultural sphere that was previously unoccupied by media communication. Only lately and slower than widely believed, the internet is used for the online reception of audio-visual media content. In this respect, rather than replacing traditional media consumption it serves as a useful addition to the domestic media repertoire for specific situations or certain individual needs (Röser & Peil 2012; Röser et al. 2017b). Nonetheless, in all our households there was an unbroken presence of classical media which were still routinely used at home. Within our period of investigation, the domestic media environment has changed tremendously. But the domestic media routines of the people have not radically changed (see also Peil & Schwaab 2014).

As meaning-giving sphere the home is not only an important context of media use. It is also the place where the diffusion and participation in new media technologies is promoted (Röser & Peil 2010; Peil & Röser 2012). Already our 2008 study had shown that the integration of the internet into everyday life and its connection to domestic tasks, routines and interactions have given a major boost to online participation in Germany. This was mirrored in quantitative data on internet diffusion in Germany (Röser & Peil 2010). Our qualitative household studies point in the same direction, and they shed light on the domestication process from the perspective of the users and their initial motivation to access the internet in their private homes. Based on these findings, we distinguished two phases of adoption that was each linked to specific sets of motives. The early stage of internet adoption refers to households with online access from the mid-1990s onwards. Their interest in the internet was strongly influenced by work or education, or a general interest in technology. The second adoption stage began in the year 2000, with peaks in 2002 and 2003. It was characterized by households without any professional reference to the internet. At that time, the users' motivations to access the internet were significantly connected to the domestic sphere and to the politics of everyday life. In most cases, either there was a specific private concern

that initiated internet adoption (e.g., a hobby), or services that supported daily life attracted people's interest, such as travel planning, online banking or eBay. Some of the later adopters had already experienced some pres-sure from friends or family members to use the internet, and the fear of being left behind motivated their adoption. Another relevant factor was the availability of friends or relatives with some technical expertise who could help to get the internet started and solve problems. These supporters – who in our sample were all male – had an outstanding role in the domestication of the inter-net (Röser & Peil 2012). Only recently, their service has become less relevant because with the spread of mobile media technologies like smartphones and tablet computers the devices have be-come more user-friendly and intuitive and their technicity has moved to the background (Röser et al. 2017b).

The domestication of the internet and the increase of participation through its integration into the private home show some interesting analogies with the diffusion of radio and television, as historical studies based on oral-history interviews reveal (Moores 1988; O'Sullivan 1991). Just like the PC and the internet, the radio was at first almost exclusively used by a minority of men with a strong interest in technology. Within years, however, the signification of the technology underwent some major transformations. Starting with the implementation of loudspeakers, not only was the recep-tion improved but the devices also became more user-friendly and the programs were fitted more and more towards housewives' needs and schedules. As Morley and Silverstone (1990) put it, "the domestication of the radio was a gradual process in which, from being initially a disturbance which sep-arated men and women in the household, it came to be accommodated to the household's spatial and social relations" (ibid.: 38). The alteration of the radio – as well as the computer and in-ternet – from technical artefacts to integral parts of everyday life is one of the reasons why these media attract wider audiences in the course of their domestication (Röser 2007). Through daily activities as well as input by the other household members, women from our sample who had previously not shown any interest in the internet gained access to the medium. In particular some older women, who told us in the first interview about their technical aversion and their unwillingness to use the online

medium, began using the internet and increased their usage dramatically between 2011 and 2013 (Röser et al. 2017b). In some way, social inequalities that usually characterize the introduction phase of a new medium are levelled through the domestication process. However, domestication is neither a linear process nor ever completed, so different forms of digital participa-tion are re-negotiated in the further domestication. Eventually, it is the domestic activities and the relationships that decide over who becomes interested in the technology, who gains competences or who is considered the expert in the home.

4.2 Gender roles and uses of the internet

As stated earlier, through their everyday-life contextualization, online media became less technical and their association with the male sphere became less relevant. But this alteration was only effec-tive at the level of usage. Our household studies expose that the level of hardware, maintenance and problem solving was still attributed to the technical field of duty and thus to the male partner. Interestingly, with regard to the technical level of the internet, there was not one female expert in our sample. Instead, all related tasks were performed by the male partners or outsourced to male friends and relatives (Röser & Peil 2012). However, at the moment, there seems to be a further degendering of the internet in progress, because with the proliferation of mobile technologies the hardware has lost some of its significance and a lot of women appear to become experts in this area (Röser et al. 2017b; see also Röser & Roth 2015).

In our sample, strikingly, the couples who had children or became parents during our investigation period mostly negotiated their domestic responsibilities according to traditional ideas of a division of labour after their children were born. This ongoing effectiveness of traditional gender roles affected the use and maintenance of media devices and was apparent at the level of content, too. Especially parents shared their domestic responsibilities according to the performed gender roles. As soon as both partners were able to routinely use the internet, the female partners usually took care of all household-related activities that were handled online. This was quite noticeable with regard to younger couples with an academic background. When they had children and one partner went on

parental leave, the adherence to traditional gender roles and a gender-related division of tasks and was quite noticeable. Most commonly, these practices were also transferred to the use of the internet. Even though the mediatization of the domestic sphere had provided the opportunity to renegotiate the responsibilities in the digital realm, these were integrated into the tried and tested gender-related practices. The appropriation of the internet is obviously profoundly so-cial in nature. It is performed in the context of everyday life with its specific rules, routines and institutionalizations. The perspective on gender relations shows that the daily life of the couples is structured by gender-specific norms and arrangements that are actualized in internet use and thus inscribed into the mediatization process. The increase of participation of internet distant women is thus often linked to the persistence of gender-related practices within the domestic sphere (Röser & Peil 2012; Röser & Roth 2015).

4.3 Changing boundaries between domestic and external spheres

Domestication theory has always been interested in the household's transformative relationship with external spheres. It regards media use and everyday domestic life not as detached from the surrounding world, but as closely related to other social spheres. This role of the media in managing the boundaries between private and public life has been already brought out by radio in the 1920s and 1930s or television in the 1950s. In a new intensity, these media enabled the household members to open up to external spheres and experience public life without having to leave their own home. The images that were shown on television served as agents of the outside world. They brought notions of the city, the nation or events from other countries into the living room. In this way, the public became part of the private, domestic life. Back then a novelty, this virtual connection to the world was later expressed in the well-known metaphor of television as 'window to the world' (Hickethier 2007). Just as the television in the 1950s, the implementation and domestication of the internet has inspired new forms of the household's outside connections. Overall, it has given rise to a multiplicity of new communicative settings within the home and changes of domestic communication cultures. These new settings are characterized by a complex overlapping of inter-personal and different forms of

mediatized communication, a constant mediated presence of the outside world within the home, and a careful balancing between the individual media interests of the household members and their desire for community or retreat (Röser & Peil 2012, 2014; Röser et al. 2017b).

Especially the increased saturation of the domestic sphere with mobile technologies has contribut-ed to the emergence and negotiation of new arrange-ments. By being flexibly used in different so-cial situations and domestic locations, notebooks and smartphones allow for parallel media uses (e.g. television and internet) within an overall setting of physical community (Müller & Röser 2016). As mentioned earlier, a lot of couples hang on to the routine of watching TV together in the even-ing at home – our 2013 and 2016 interviews clearly point at the ongoing significance of this activity that marks the end of the work day and let the couples synchronize their life together. But the TV experi-ence is altered through the additional use of mobile online technologies. In such 'second screen set-tings', the social space of television constitutes and emphasizes community and interac-tion at the sit-uational level, while enabling individualization at the level of the media content. One couple with two young children, for example, habitually gathered in the living room after the kids were sent to sleep. Routinely, the television set was switched on, but regularly the man would turn to his netbook to browse for information on the internet while the woman got involved in e-mail communication or online shopping via her smartphone. Their televi-sion night is marked by mo-ments of transition be-tween the reception of the television program, the use of different online applications and face-to-face communication that overlap and interfere with each other. Apparent-ly, what unites the household members commonly in front of the television set primarily is its "flow" (Williams 2003 [1974]: 86ff.). Rather than a specific program, it is the physical presence of the large screen and its availability at the heart of the home which make it inescapable in the private sphere. However, its function to connect the household members to the outside world seems to have been partly taken over by the inter-net. In this new communicative setting around tel-evision, online media provide a link to the public sphere which is of a different quality, as it is less about representation than about infiltration and penetration.

With e-mail communication, social networking plat-forms and regular websites, the gateways to and from the home have multiplied, and they have be-come multi-dimensional because they keep up a constant backchannel for communication with the outside. Part of this mediatization process is that the role of the household members has changed, too. While letting the world passively flow into the living room via television, they actively engage with it online – be it on the smartphone, the notebook or the stationary computer. These new mediatized interactions with the external sphere are not nec-essarily displacing the traditional evening ritual but they create new arrangements of communicative overlaps and interferences. The changes of domes-tic communication cultures and media settings within the home have come with ongoing transfor-mations of the domestic realm. Perhaps most sig-nificantly, the home has become a place which is characterized by an increased connectivity to other social areas and cultural fields. This development refers to different networks of distant friends and family members who enter the household via email communication, instant messaging or social me-dia, but equally concerns the infiltration of the home with new tasks, activities and responsibili-ties. The mediatized home has turned into a place where external spheres are constantly present and deeply intertwined into everyday life: They perme-ate the households through various interfaces and they have added complexity and diversity to the communicative experiences at home. The outside world not only enters the living room by way of lean back recep-tion of fictional programs or public and global affairs (Bakardjieva 2006), it has also be-come a field of occupation and activity where the household's manifold relationships with com-merce, professional and educational institutions as well as public authorities are managed. At home, people can maintain a permanent connection to the spheres of consumption and production, pro-fession and public administration. In embracing the possibilities of these connections, the end of the working day converts into a domestic rush hour with no defined endpoint. As part of this process, the home now becomes a site of personal commit-ment where the organization of both private and public everyday life is expected to be virtuously handled (Röser & Peil 2012; Röser et al. 2017b).

5. Discussion and summary

These short glimpses into the outcomes of the projects on the domestication of the internet and mediatized home underline the far-reaching significance of the social dynamics that are occurring within the domestic sphere. The meanings of new and old media are significantly shaped by the constellations and arrangements which are performed and negotiated at home. This does not mean that other institutions such as the school or the work place do not have any impact on the way people use new media and make sense of them. Especially with the advent and spread of mobile online media, other contexts and settings seem to have gained relevance, as newer domestica-tion studies with a wider socio-spatial angle suggest (e.g. Vuojärvi et al. 2010). However, when at the practical level dealing with questions of media literacies, risky media usage patterns, or benefi-cial opportunities provided by new media, a special emphasis should be laid on the family home. In this setting, media and their potentials are often discovered for the first time and their scope of application is tried and tested in relation to the other household members and to the media ensemble.

After all, the domestication of media technologies like the internet is an open process which is nev-er terminated and constantly changing with respect to speed and intensity. Changes in the domes-tic media repertoire of the people turned out to be fast moving as well as rather persisting depend-ing on the contexts of everyday life and their biographical circumstances (see Röser et al. 2017b: 145). This is important to note because discourse about new media and their influence on society too often overlooks the obstinacy of the people actually using them. Indeed, with the overarching process of digitization, our media landscape has been rapidly changing in the last few years, but, not uncommonly, practices, routines and habits of people and communities are not evolving at the same pace and do have unforeseen moderating effects on the impact of new media.

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FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

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International Federation for Family Development:
Papers No. 63
Getting bigger or getting better?
Education for sustainable development is the key
1 April 2017

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development begins with a strong statement: "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development." The point of this paper is to explain why, as reasonable as it may seem, this assertion can lead to some misunderstanding, as different experts have mentioned for different reasons.

What is the relation among development, expansion, prosperity and education? A superficial reading of the 2030 Agenda can give the impression that eradicating poverty is what really matters, as if sustainability had to do only with the present generation.

The very essence of sustainable development has to do not only with meeting "the needs of the present", but also "without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" in its three dimensions –environment, society, and economy–, especially in the way we face the growth in cities.

That is why education for sustainable development is so important, because it calls for solutions to make the world more livable for this and future generations.

Confusing development with growth
First, as Efosa Ojomo recently summarized, "because poverty almost always shows itself as a lack of resources in poor communities –food, safe water, sanitation, education, healthcare– it's reasonable to theorise that poverty is a resource problem. So, based on that assumption, we execute a push strategy of development –pushing the resources poor communities lack in order to solve the issue. But while we might alleviate poverty, we don't do much else." In other words, "our

strategies will not create sustained growth that leads to prosperity because we are solving the wrong problem." What is the reason for it? Confusing development with growth. "The word 'growth' has two fundamentally different meanings: 'expansion' and 'development.' Expansion means 'getting bigger;' In development means 'getting better,' which may or may not involve expansion. This is no mere semantic distinction. Many communities have wasted a lot of time and energy pursuing expansion because that's what they thought they needed, when what they really needed was development. To avoid this confusion, let's define growth only as getting bigger — expansion– and development as getting better."

One study case for this is the growth of cities worldwide. According to the World Bank, today's urban population of about 3.5 billion people is projected to reach 5 billion by 2030, with two-thirds of the global population living in cities. City leaders must move quickly to plan for growth.

"A healthy society will be prosperous as long as the newborns can find the right environment to grow up and become responsible future citizens."

The speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges for all family members such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. The capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members that live in the city. The challenges are, of course, how to assure that getting bigger is not getting worse.

Kinsley shows with a physical example that no every growth means improvement. "Human growth after maturity is cancer. When a town continues to expand after maturity, its cancer becomes manifest in many ways: spiteful controversy, higher taxes, traffic, sprawl, lost sense of community."

On the contrary, "after reaching physical maturity, humans continue to develop in many beneficial and interesting ways: learning new skills, gaining deeper wisdom, cultivating new relationships, and so on. Similarly, a community can develop itself without necessarily expanding. It can create affordable housing, protect public safety, and improve employment, health, cultural, and educational opportunities. In fact, a good definition of development is the creation of jobs, income, savings, and a stronger community."

Therefore, this is not to say that all expansion is bad, but that it is essential to distinguish it from development in order to make choices that truly benefit families, and because of that also individuals and societies.

Confusing development with solving the present

And this is precisely where the concept of 'sustainable' adquires its fullest dimension. "Sustainable development is a difficult concept to define; it is also continually evolving, which makes it doubly difficult to define. One of the original descriptions of sustainable development is credited to the Brundtland Commission: 'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Sustainable development is generally thought to have three components: environment, society, and economy. The well-being of these three areas is intertwined, not separate. For example, a healthy, prosperous society relies on a healthy environment to provide food and resources, safe drinking water, and clean air for its citizens. The sustainability paradigm rejects the contention that casualties in the environmental and social realms are inevitable and acceptable consequences of economic development. Thus, the authors consider sustainability to be a paradigm for thinking about a future in which environmental, societal, and economic considerations are balanced in the pursuit of development and improved quality of life."

Therefore, there is a close conection between sustainability and demography. A healthy society will be prosperous as long as the newborns can find the right environment to grow up and become responsible future citizens. Usually, this means belonging to a stable family, a strong community and a viable society.

Kinsley also underlines that "a growing number of communities are discovering that there's an alternative to economic 'development' strategies based on expansion. They're embracing sustainable development, a more balanced approach that weighs social and environmental considerations alongside conventional economic ones." Expanding cities need not give up prosperity as they slow their expansion. Families with little prospect for expansion need not give up their dreams. There are plenty of development options that don't require expansion.

When placed in front of the word 'development,' the word 'sustainable' offers both opportunities and constraints. It offers opportunities because its new perspective reveals development options that previously weren't obvious. It offers constraints because, when proposals are considered in light of their long-term effects, some options that might otherwise appear attractive are seen to be unworkable, or not worth their negative effects.

Education is the key

Sustainable development cannot be achieved by technological solutions, political regulation or financial instruments alone. We need to change the way we think and act. This requires quality education and learning for sustainable development at all levels and in all social contexts.

Rosalyn McKeown, in 'Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit' states that "an important distinction is the difference between education about sustainable development and education for sustainable development. The first is an awareness lesson or theoretical discussion. The second is the use of education as a tool to achieve sustainability. In our opinion, more than a theoretical discussion is needed at this critical juncture in time. While some people argue that

'for' indicates indoctrination, we think 'for' indicates a purpose. All education serves a purpose or society would not invest in it. Driver education, for example, seeks to make our roads safer for travelers. Fire-safety education seeks to prevent fires and tragic loss of lives and property. Education for Sustainable Development promises to make the world more livable for this and future generations. Of course, a few will abuse or distort it and turn it into indoctrination. This would be antithetical to the nature of it, which, in fact, calls for giving people knowledge and skills for lifelong learning to help them find new solutions to their environmental, economic, and social issues."

While expansion was once seen as the only track to prosperity, the good news for both declining and expanding communities is that there is an alternative. Prosperity doesn't necessarily require expansion; it requires development that is sustainable.

Some guidelines
Kinsley also suggests some guidelines for families to move toward sustainability in a holistic way (even though, of course, not every guideline will be applicable everywhere):

1. Use renewable resources no faster than they can be renewed: unsustainable communities spend these capital assets as if they were income. All towns based on the extraction of non-renewable resources must eventually find another basis for their economy. Many have transformed themselves into tourist towns. Others have attracted software designers, stock traders, and other entrepreneurs of the information age. Still others have evolved local economies based on arts and crafts. In general, the smart ones anticipate the shift and ensure a hospitable environment for other, more renewable economic activities well before the change takes place.

2. Seek ways to strengthen the economy without increasing 'throughput': any material process has its inputs and outputs, and the sum of the materials that are processed, used, and turned into waste can be termed 'throughput.' Innovative communities and businesses create more jobs by further refining their products before exporting them out of the community. Instead of harvesting

more, they 'add value' to what they've already harvested; instead of making more widgets, they make better widgets; instead of wooing more tourists, they create more interesting experiences that encourage tourists to stay longer.

3. Focus more on getting better, less on getting bigger: as mentioned earlier, a smart community looks for ways to develop itself without necessarily expanding. It understands that communities have more options than just accepting another subdivision, a big-box retailer, a casino, or another industry.

4. Seek development that increases diversity and selfreliance: a town with several kinds of export businesses is stronger and more resilient than another with only one. With more diversity, fewer jobs are likely to be jeopardized at one time by fluctuations in the national or international economy. Diversity tends to come not only from big, attention-grabbing plant openings, but also from "micro-enterprises" starting up in garages, living rooms, and barns. Other things being equal, twenty new businesses with two employees each are far preferable to one new business with forty employees.

5. Put waste to work: waste is simply a misplaced resource. Innovative business people and families are finding less expensive –even profitable– ways to reuse, recycle, or biodegrade discarded materials, and they're putting people to work doing it. The motto these days is 'waste equals food': the byproduct from one business or process may be useful as the raw material for another.

6. Regard quality of life as an essential asset: high quality of life is usually good for business. Wise community leaders are realizing that quality of life and a strong sense of place aren't intangible options; they're vital assets that nurture residents and support the local economy. In addition, an increasing number of community residents are willing to say out loud that development means more than business, it means preserving and enhancing a great place to live. They're saying that they want their towns to continue to be places

they and their children can call home. They won't sacrifice their home for short-term gain.

7. Consider the effects of today's decisions on future generations: if a community economy is based on the stewardship of such important local assets as trees or the nutrients in the soil, then future generations will be able to make a living in the same way. In contrast, economic activity that depletes resources creates a daunting future for a community's children. This concept is also sometimes referred to as 'generational equity.'

8. Consider the off-site effects of decisions: unfortunately, most communities fail to consider all the off-site and indirect impacts. Off-site concerns may lead the community to turn down the proposal, or they might lead to creating a better one with more appropriate access that hurts no one.

9. Consider the cumulative effects of a series of decisions: by failing to consider the cumulative effects of decisions, local leaders only worsened the problems they were trying to solve. They didn't ask themselves what unintended consequences might result from each 'solution' they chose.

10. Measure whether actions actually do what they're intended to do: sustainable development views the economy, community, and environment holistically; it looks at the big picture, paying careful attention to underlying causes and effects.

"While expansion was once seen as the only track to prosperity, the good news for both declining and expanding communities is that there is an alternative."

How can parents and carers help

Family relationships and expectations have a major influence on children's social development. Family relationships set the foundation for children to relate to others. Children learn how to manage relationships by observing the ways that parents, carers and other family members relate to others.

Some guidelines regarding this holistic approach to the role of parents and carers:

1. Teach social and emotional skills, such as listening to others, taking turns, making friends and resolving conflict. Emphasise skills for cooperative and respectful relationships and acknowledge children's efforts to use them.

2. Use positive discipline: setting reasonable expectations for children's behaviour, and communicating them clearly and respectfully, sets the tone for cooperation. Being consistent and positive in your approach to discipline communicates to children that they are valued, even if a particular behaviour is not.

3. Talk about values and read stories that emphasise values with your children. Ask their opinions on whether they think a particular action is respectful, responsible, caring etcetera. Discuss the pros and cons of different kinds of values for promoting effective social relationships. Make talking about values and opinions part of everyday conversation, for example, by talking about things you see on TV.

4. Capitalise on 'teachable moments'. When something happens that requires a response which draws on values, it presents a 'teachable moment'. Ask children to think about what the problem is and what they could do to improve the situation.

5. Involve children in family discussions and decisionmaking, encouraging children to contribute to family discussions and decision-making gives them practice in listening to others' views and seeing things from different angles. Listening and contributing to family discussions helps children understand what your values are and shows them that their voices are valued. Involving children in these ways in family discussions and decision-making promotes respectful and responsible behaviours.

6. Promote a strong sense of identity. When parents and carers notice and acknowledge what children do to help, it shows children that their contributions are worthwhile. This gives them a sense of pride and encourages them to 'do the

right thing'. Help children to work out ways to stand up for what they believe in and let them know that you are proud of them when they do. This helps children to build confidence in their own strengths and values.

7. Supervise media use. It is very important for parents and carers to supervise children's media use and ensure that the things they view are appropriate for their age and level of understanding. When children are repeatedly exposed to violent or inappropriate media images they can see these things as normal. Children often imitate the behaviour they see on TV or on the internet.

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International Federation for Family Development:
Papers No. 64
Unpaid or Invisible?
Ensuring that Women can be what they choose to be
1. May 2017

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 13 to 24 March 2017. This year's session saw some of the highest numbers in terms of participation of Member States, and of organization of meetings and events. Representatives from 162 Member States, including 89 ministers, and more than 3900 civil society participants from more than 580 organizations and 138 countries attended the session.

Additionally, the International Federation for Family Development was able to join the 131 written statements submitted to the Commission. More than 600 events were hosted by Member States, UN entities and civil society on the sidelines of the two-week session; approximately 200 took place on UN premises while roughly 400 were staged within the proximity.

On the substantive preparations, the Expert Group Meeting was convened involving the participation of experts from government, civil society, and academics, in close collaboration with the ILO. A Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work, which examines women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work at a time when the international community has made an unprecedented commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, better in the 2030 Agenda, was the substantive basis over which the intergovernmental discussions were structured.

"Women's rights are human rights – and attacks on women are attacks on all of us. That is why we have to respond together, [...] for the women domestic workers who globally do two and a half times as much unpaid work as men. And for the nearly one billion women who will enter the global economy in the next decade.

Empowerment will unleash the potential of all these women and girls – and they will lead us to a new future.

The United Nations and I will personally support you every step of the way. It is true, I have to confess, I am a man, but we need all men to stand up for women's empowerment."

From the Secretary-General's remarks at the Commission on the Status of Women 2017.

The Commission has been an opportunity for the Member States to re-commit to forge ahead on implementing the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) agenda promises of the Beijing plus 20 Political Declaration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the Quito New Urban Agenda, and with specific reference to the priority theme of CSW61 on 'women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work,' and its focus area on 'the empowerment of indigenous women.'

The Executive Director called in her statements this CSW "a barometer of the progress on achieving a world free of gender discrimination and inequality, a world that leaves no one behind." She affirmed that "women's economic success is critical for flourishing economies, a positive world of work and breaking repeated poverty cycles as well as for the success of the 2030 Agenda."

The Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed addressed and inspired the young women and men at the historic CSW61 Youth Forum and called upon them "to work together so to ensure that young women can be whatever they want to be with nothing holding them back and called on young men to be allies and partners." She called upon youth to "go back to their communities and be the change agents and torchbearers the world so desperately needs."

It was emphasized the importance of SDG 5 and its implementation for their empowerment and set out a comprehensive 36-point agenda for action emphasizing that it is crucial to adopt and implement policies, resource programmes, and foster partnerships to economically empower all young women and girls, and sensitize men and young men to embrace this and share decision making space.

Conditions of work for women's economic empowerment

From informal to formal and decent work

The Commission expressed concern regarding unequal working conditions, limited opportunities for career advancement, as well as the growing high incidence of informal and non-standard forms of employment for women in many regions. As women employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, their transition to the formal economy and their equal access to decent work and full and productive employment, and to social protection systems are especially important to dignify their conditions and well being of their families.

In this regard, the Commission committed Member States to facilitate the transition of informal workers, including those engaged in informal paid care and domestic work, home-based work and in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as work in the agricultural sector and own-account and part-time work, to the formal economy and its recognition.

Actions such as the promotion of decent paid care and domestic work for women and men in the public and private sector; providing social protection and wages that allow for an adequate standard of living; promoting safe working conditions and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value as well as the occupational safety and health protection to workers in the informal economy are called for.

Although there were strong references to the situation of women in the informal economy, and pathways to formalization and decent work, separate and targeted recommendations regarding women domestic workers by the Commission would have been most relevant.

Gender-responsive Social Protection and Pensions

New territory was covered on the need for gender-responsive social protection, social services and care infrastructure, with a focus on equitable, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education, child care, elder care, health care, care and social services for persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, which meet the needs of both caregivers and those in need of care in the families.

Establishing or strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind, as well as measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including facilitating the transition from informal to formal work are posited as critical for the economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work.

Significant recommendations where made to improve the wellfare of families in the public and private sector about paid maternity, paternity and parental leave, childcare and dependent care facilities, flexible working arrangements, etc., to address the disproportionate share of unpaid care and advance its sharing and reduction were made.

The call to promote legal, administrative and policy measures that ensure women's full and equal access to pensions, through contributory and non-contributory schemes, independent of women's employment trajectories and reduction in gender gaps in benefit levels was a key value added.

Transforming unpaid care and domestic work

An unprecedented commitment

A major normative win and key conceptual and practical point for implementation was the the commitment to addressing unpaid care and domestic work. The Agreed Conclusions gave guidance how to concretely achieve SDG 5.4 and, going beyond, to recognize, value, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share

of unpaid care and domestic work, and provisioning of related infrastructure and care services. Moreover, unpaid care work was highlighted in terms of the caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Although unpaid care and domestic work has been dealt with previously, including at CSW53, the continuum between the disproportionate burden of this work and its impact on women's ability to realize their full potential in productive employment, the formal economy and family responsabilities, is the value added in these Agreed Conclusions, as is the link to SDG 5.4 implementation.

A key element in this effort is the share responsability at home between women and men and the prioritizing of social protection policies and infrastructure development. The Commission recognized the uneven distribution of care responsibilities as a significant constraint on women's and girls' completion or progress in education, on family development, on women's entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities.

The Commission also committed to promoting policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, through flexibility in working arrangements without reductions in labour and social protections, provision of infrastructure, technology, and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport, information technologies, as well as accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities and by challenging gender stereotypes and negative social norms and promoting men's participation and responsibilities as fathers and caregivers in the families.

The Commission called for measuring the value of unpaid care and domestic work to determine its contribution to the national economy, for example through periodic time use surveys, and for the inclusion of such measurement in the formulation of gender-responsive economic and social policies. In the data related commitments, the measurement of unpaid care work was considered an indicator of measuring progress in achieving women's economic empowerment and wellbeing of their families.

Work-life balance and family responsibilities

The Commission paid careful attention to balancing, and sharing work and family responsibilities, and the need to eliminate structural barriers for women to be able to participate fully in society, equally in the world of work and fullfil family responsabilities. In this regard, measures to be taken are the strengthening of laws and regulatory frameworks that promote the reconciliation and sharing of work and family responsibilities for women and men, including by designing, implementing and promoting family responsive legislation, policies and services.

When this reflection is linked to the reduction and redistribution of women and girl's disproportionate share of domestic and unpaid work and the role of men and boys, gender-responsive social protection and policies in recruitment, retention, re-entry promotion and progression, it marks an important normative progress.

Unpaid work and equality
In all countries, women do more of such work than men, although to some degree balanced–by an amount varying across countries–by the fact that they do less market work. The unequal distribution of unpaid care work between women and men represents an infringement of women's rights and also a brake on their economic empowerment. Women typically spend disproportionately more time on unpaid care work than men. Time is a limited resource, which is divided between labor and leisure, productive and reproductive activities, paid and unpaid work. Every minute more that a woman spends on unpaid care work represents one minute less that she could be potentially spending on market-related activities or investing in her educational and vocational skills.

On account of gendered social norms that view unpaid care work as a female prerogative, women across different regions, socio-economic classes and cultures spend an important part of their day on meeting the expectations of their domestic and reproductive roles. This is in addition to their paid activities, thus creating the 'double burden' of work for women. How society and policy makers address issues concerning care has important implications for the achievement of gender equality: they can either expand the capabilities and choices of women and men, or confine women to traditional roles associated with femininity and motherhood.
Shared responsibility at home may be the missing link that influences gender gaps in labor outcomes. The gender gap in unpaid care work has significant implications for women's ability to actively take part in the labor market and the type/quality of employment opportunities available to them. The sociallyprescribed and entrenched gender roles that denote women and

girls as care providers can undermine their rights, limit their opportunities, capabilities and choices, and so impede their empowerment. Prevailing gender norms mean that, across all societies, women and girls undertake the bulk of unpaid care work such as looking after and educating children, looking after older family members, caring for the sick, preparing food, cleaning, and collecting water and fuel. This unequal burden of unpaid care undermines women and girls' rights (to decent work, to education, to health, to rest and leisure), limits their opportunities and, therefore, impedes their economic empowerment. It hinders women from seeking employment and income, which in turn holds them back economically.

Written statement of the International Federation for Family Development for the Commission on the Status of Women 2017.

Conclusions

The CSW61 Agreed Conclusions were adopted by consensus after over three weeks and more than 100 hours of intense and grueling negotiations among delegations supported by UN Women, with civil society including veterans and youth keeping watch and providing inspiration, insights and advocacy, a strong sense of accomplishment, progress and sense of purpose was obvious.

The exemplary role of the CSW61 Chair, Ambassador Antonia de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil and of facilitator of the Agreed Conclusions related negotiations, Fatma Al Zahraa Hassan of Egypt were to truly be recognized and applauded.

CSW61 was an occasion to take stock of the why, what and how of bridging the gender gaps in the world of work decisively through the resolve, actions and investments of all stakeholders, addressing both the supply side and the demand side of the labour market and related enabling environments. Governments, private sector, civil society are expected to do so in the following action categories:

- Strengthening normative and legal frameworks;

- Strengthening education, training and skills development;

- Implementing economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment;

- Addressing the growing informality of work and mobility of women workers;

- Managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment;

- Strengthening women's collective voice, leadership and decision-making;

- Strengthening private sector's role in women's economic empowerment.

In comparison with previous Agreed Conclusions the latest document secured pledges on key aspects of gender equality and make progress implementing various family perspective path-breaking commitments and agreed language. Terms such as family responsive legislation, family responsibilities, family environment, welfare of women's families, women's dignified conditions for themselves and their families, rural women's economic wellbeing and their families are all positive outcomes. They are an important leap to build consensus and move from business as usual and focus on tackling the mere practical and pressing challenges that families face daily.

The paragraphs mentioned can be found on the Agreed Conclusions as follows:

- The Commission acknowledges that structural barriers to gender equality and gender-based discrimination persist in labour markets worldwide, which impose greater constraints on women than on men in balancing work and family responsibilities and that those structural barriers need to be eliminated in order for women to be able to participate fully in society and equally in the world of work;

- The Commission recognizes that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their family, and that, in particular, women's contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development;

- The Commission expresses concern over the persistently low wages earned by women workers, which frequently prevent women from providing decent and dignified living conditions for themselves and their families, and recognizes the important role of trade unions and social dialogue in addressing persistent economic inequalities, including the gender pay gap;

- The Commission paid careful attention to the need to strengthen laws and regulatory frameworks that promote the reconciliation and sharing of work and family responsibilities for women and men, including by designing, implementing and promoting family-responsive legislation, policies and services, such as parental and other leave schemes, increased flexibility in working arrangements, support for breastfeeding mothers, development of infrastructure and technology, and the provision of services, including affordable, accessible and quality childcare and care facilities for children and other dependents, and promoting men's equitable responsibilities with respect to household work as fathers and caregivers, which create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

- The Commission committed Member States to facilitate tosupport the contributions of rural women and women farmers to the agricultural sector, food security and nutrition and the economic well-being of their families and communities.

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International Federation for Family Development:
Papers No. 66
Families in a changing society
EU Project FamiliesAndSocieties final recommendations (I)
1 July 2017

Since February 2013, the International Federation for Family Development has been part of a large-scale integrating project called FamiliesAndSocieties. The project's aim is to address changing families and sustainable societies, policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations, and has been coordinated by Stockholm University.

What will families look like in the future? Are existing social and family policies compatible with changes in family patterns? The collaborative research project has been financed in the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme.

The project will extend the knowledge on how policies promote well-being, inclusion and sustainable societal development among families. The project's mains objectives are: To investigate the diversity of family forms, relationships, and life courses in Europe; To assess the compatibility of existing policies with family changes; And to contribute to evidence-based policy-making.

"The major trends regarding family patterns and structures over the past decades are well known in terms of delayed partnership formation, postponement of childbearing, low fertility, increasing prevalence of less committed relationships, high separation and divorce rates, increasing family diversity. However, family change is not over. New, largely unexplored forms of family life are emerging. Also, the implications of family change for children's wellbeing and the intergenerational reproduction of inequality are of major importance, yet limited research has addressed these issues."

Project coordinator Livia Sz. Oláh, Associate Professor of Demography at the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University. Interview: Insa Cassens, Population Europe. 2013. [www.populationeurope.eu/statement/family-change-not-over]

Through a multidisciplinary approach, the project has combined a wide range of expertise in social sciences, law and the humanities represented in the consortium of 25 research partners from 15 European countries, and 3 transnational civil society actors.

Regarding the evidence, two new databases have been developed within the project: one of the legal content of family forms available in European countries, and another on EC/EU initiatives in core family-policy areas. Together with various stakeholders, government agencies, national and local policymakers, non-governmental organizations and additional members of the scientific community across Europe, the project has identified and will disseminate innovative and best policy practices.

The overall conceptual framework is based on three key premises: Family life courses are becoming more diverse; the interdependency of lives matters; Social contexts and policies matter. Building upon these premises the project has explored the growing complexity of family, its configurations and transitions while examining their implications for men, women and children with respect to inequalities in life chances, intergenerational relations and care arrangements. Furthermore, it has investi-

gated how policies address family diversity, develop short- and longer-term projections and identify future policy needs.

The conceptual framework has embedded four transversal dimensions such as Gender, Culture (ethnic and cultural identities, sexual orientation), socioeconomic resources and life stages. The interactions between these transversals with the fundamental processes shape the outcomes of the diversification of family life courses for individuals and societies; (re-)produce inequalities across the life course and across generations; and shape the policy responses that are appropriate in order to promote positive objectives.

The FamiliesAndSocieties project is organized in 12 work packages (WP). The WPs have been designed to complement each other and interrelate. WP1 (management) and WP12 (dissemination) serve all WPs, providing a frame for the research activities (WPs 2-11). Important aspects of the family life course are addressed in WPs 2-4.

New family configurations, life goals and transitions being specifically addressed in WP2, the new roles of women and men in WP3, and the new role of children along with ART in WP4. WPs 5-9 address the implications of the changes in the family life course for sustainable societies. WP5 focuses on inequalities in children's life chances, WP6 on childcare arrangements, their determinants and consequences, WP7 on intergenerational links, WP8 on migrants and questions of social inclusion and exclusion, and WP9 on policies. Foresight and synthesis of research results constitute another group, the former activities included in WP10 and the latter in WP11.

Two of the research WPs are central ones and interlink with all other research WPs; these are WP2 on family configurations and WP9 on policies. The new gender roles (WP3) interlink with WP4 (children and ART) and WP7 (intergenerational links) in addition to links with the two central WPs. WP4 also interlinks with WP7, the latter connects to WP6 as well. WP5 on children's life chances interlinks both with WP6 and WP8.

Family diversity, vulnerability and challenges

Recognizing and supporting single-parent families

At present, single-parent families ought to be of great focus, be recognized and supported as they are a growing family form and should not be an afterthought in family, economic and labour market policies. Singleparent families should be explicitly considered and addressed in all family policy discussions and decisions. For example, home-care cash allowances, which are paid to a parent who abstains from employment to take care for her child at home, can have significant consequences encouraging lower levels of female employment among single-parent families, which in turn results in higher childhood poverty. In this regard, worklife balance policies and workplace practices also need to take into account a single-parent perspective, for example, the impact of non-standard work hours when childcare is not available.

The provision of educational and skill-building opportunities and affordable quality day care become even more urgent in families with single parents. Such families should have a higher priority and subsidized access to childcare facilities. Governmental agencies should be established to facilitate child support payment from non-resident parents in case of conflicts, disagreements or delayed payments, e.g., after a divorce or separation.

Supporting large families

Similarly, policies need to take into consideration that large families have higher risks of vulnerability than average size families. Raising many children can be very expensive and time-intensive, hence different policy designs should be sought to lighten this burden through appropriate social protection regimes including formal child care and other services. State policies and employer practices ought to be co-designed to promote a sustainable work-life balance. Where employers and/or labour market policies ignore parental duties, a parent may be forced to work part time or not at all, especially in families with three or more children due to the need to co-ordinate time schemes of several family members. state support and affordable and easily accessible quality child care facilities can improve this situation.

Policies are generally needed to raise employer awareness of family issues. It is beneficial for employers to invest in their employees' well-being and in supporting them in psychological, social and economic vulnerabilities can then arise. More flexible work schedules for caregivers, their parental roles. It should be noted that employer attitudes towards parents influence the situation of families to a great degree. The workplace culture is also a decisive factor with respect to parenting.

Empowering immigrant families

Nowadays, policymakers must consider the variety and complexity of family forms when elaborating immigration policies. Particularly, links between admission and integration policies should be strengthened. For instance, European visa policies and practices should be adjusted to facilitate family life across borders. In particular, countries should facilitate issuing temporary visas for minors that allow children in the country of origin to visit their parents. Policies should be attentive to the needs of large families regardless of ethnic and/or cultural backgrounds, and ensure that social and housing policies support all families.

Granting early and universal access to day-care, preschool, out of school care and recreation is one of the most efficient interventions to reduce disadvantages among immigrant children. Allowing immediate schooling for illegal or asylum-seeking families will give them support in learning the language and avoiding delays in their educational process. While, countries should invest more in strengthening the skills of professionals working with immigrant families, such as teachers, social workers, community- and human service workers. It is also important to raise awareness about these career options.

Families And Societies Consortium

The Consortium involves 25 research partners and 3 transnational civil society actor partners: - Age Platform Europe - Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography - Babeș-Bolyai University - Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences - Collegio Carlo Alberto - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - Erasmus University Rotterdam - European Large Families Confederation - European University Institute - German Youth Institute - Institut National D'Etudes Démographiques - International Federation for Family Development - Leiden University - London School

of Economics and Political Science - Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research - Population Research Institute, Väestöliitto - Stockholm University - Tallinn University - The University of Edinburgh - The University of Liverpool - The University of Oxford - Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia - University of Antwerp - University of Groningen - University of Lausanne - University of Leuven - University of Padova - University of Vienna - Warsaw School of Economics

The general coordination of the project is carried out by Stockholm University with the project coordinator assisted by a management team and Stockholm University Research Liaison Office.

Both benefit of the advice and suggestions of the Advisory Board that consists of distinguished scholars of research on the family in Europe and the USA, EU-politicians and independent experts. The scientific coordination is also supported by the Steering Committee comprising all work package co-leaders who are leading experts of the main topics of their work package.

The third level of management structure is the General Assembly, comprising a representative of each partner.

Generational challenges

Policies to tackle generational challenges need to consider the interdependences of lives, families, generations and age-groups.

Firstly, a holistic approach of youths and their transition to adulthood is needed in order to develop policies that directly support them in most European countries. Financial independence is fundamental to being considered an adult. However, the achievement of self-sufficiency is a process that requires state support. Greater self-sufficiency can be achieved through policies and practices that prevent early school leaving, by promoting a wider and better combination of work experience during studies, and through welfare policies that support youth directly instead of through their parents; social and tax assistance, housing, educational and vocational incentives that aim to facilitate their transition to independence.

Providing youth who lack education or employment, with a second chance to obtain qualifications later in life is also a key measure for societies to be more inclusive. Such measures also promote life-long learning.

Secondly, in order to balance the lives of adult children and older parents, law and policies in this area

will have to assess the practices and the effects of private care as well as of any privatization of social services for all individuals involved; i.e. for care re ceivers and for caregivers. Persistent or increased familiasation of care places additional stress on the balance of paid and unpaid work by women, as they are the vast majority of caregivers. Greater attention should be paid to the elderly as a source of support for others: the feeling of usefulness can have a positive impact on the health of the elderly, as well as their life satisfaction and quality of life.

The aim of a caregiving policy must be to make care an easier and more sustainable choice for older adults and their families. Family carers (as providers of instrumental support) should not be solely responsible for the care of frail individuals. Greater reliance on family caregivers can cause emotional distress and higher levels of loneliness, even depression in the person receiving care as well as the person providing care.

As adults are expected to stay longer in the labour market, reconciliation of care and work should be supported by implementing care leaves not limited to care for young children, reducing working hours and allowing for greater flexibility in work time for carers in need. Here, measures counteracting gender inequality in private care provision have to be included.

Thirdly, laws and policies need to humanize the practices of privatized/marketized care and the effects on the individuals hired, their work situation and well-being. In this environment, care workers have little protection or voice, so that policies need to strengthen their working terms and conditions. As such, workers are often migrants; additional attention should be paid to their specific policy needs (e.g., cross-border family situation, social security, residential, language issues). Policies should also address the potential mismatch between those individuals in greatest need of external care, and those who can afford to purchase such service.

Key policy recommendations

The following key policy recommendations for 'Family diversity, vulnerability and challenges' and 'Generational challenges' are highlighted for policy-makers and based on main findings of the project:

- Policy makers ought to be aware of the remarkable diversity of family forms and relationships in contemporary Europe, and aim for a better understanding of the nature and mechanisms of family constellations beyond married couples with children.

- Policy measures aiming to prevent/reduce the reproduction of vulnerability in families ought to be broad, complementary and embedded into a comprehensive strategy. They should comprise services addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable children as well as reconciliation policies, educational policies and other policy measures.

- More direct supports to youth are needed in most European countries, with the state playing an active role in enabling young people in their transition to adulthood. Financial independence is fundamental. However, the achievement of self-sufficiency is a process preferably supported with a social package encompassing education, housing, job market access, family benefits and social aid.

- Law, policies and practices have to assess the effects of any privatization or transfer of care (for children, the elderly, frail individuals) back on the family as to all persons concerned, those receiving the care and the caregivers. Reconciliation of care and work should be supported by implementing care leaves not limited to young children, reducing working hours and allowing for greater flexibility in work time for adults in need.

familienᵛ

Der Katholische
Familienverband Österreichs

Activity Report Katholischer Familienverband

Successes 2016

Childcare benefit reform

A reform of the childcare allowance in Ö comes into force with 1.3.2017. The Catholic Family Association has strongly criticized this reform, which also means a reduction in cash benefits for families. Nevertheless, we can still record a success: Our demands for more flexibility and social insurance protection were implemented in the planned "Papamonat" (the partnership bonus for nearly identical care times of father and mother, or the family time bonus). Deductible for children in hospital The deductible for children in hospital has been eliminated with January 2017. Thus implementing a long-term requirement of the KFÖ.

"Stars children" enter the register of persons On 1st January 2017, "stars children", children who die before, during or shortly after birth and weigh below 500 grams can be included in the register of persons; Thus a long-standing demand of the Catholic family association was taken up and implemented. So far, "stars children" were considered as miscarriages, which had no official name without the possibility of registration.

Our goals 2017

To provide a voice for children

According to the motto "to provide a voice for children", the Catholic Family Association started the year 2017. For this reason, more than 10.000 posters were sent to parishes and cooperation partners all over Austria on the 19th of March. In current day-to-day political events, the interests of children and adolescents are often little discussed. Children are not allowed to vote and are therefore not directly relevant to politics. With the campaign, the Catholic Family Association would like to draw attention to this dilemma and encourage stakeholders in Church, politics and society to incorporate the needs and wishes of children more into their decisions.

Family policy claims catalog

In Oktober 2017 elections will take place in Ö. The KFÖ is working on a new family policy claims catalog, which always appears in the year of the new elections treating the following topics: Families need material support, family and work must be more compatible, families need ideal support, families need high quality educational institutions.

Current children's cost study

There is no current data on direct child costs (consumption expenditures for children) and indirect child costs (arising from leaving the working life during the childhood phase, reduced income through later part-time work, etc.). However, because children's costs are relevant for the calculation of maintenance costs, the Catholic Family Association has been asking for a current children's cost study for three years. The Ministry of Families is now preparing for the preparation of such a study

Family and financial support

Revenue cuts for the FLAF, the pot from which the family services are paid, are regularly discussed in Austria. Family transfers are avoiding poverty, especially for those who are in the lower third of the salary loop. Because "poverty is making sick", one of our key concerns is to ensure the financing of family benefits, to insist that family benefits are regularly valued and a tax-free subsistence allowance is granted for each family member.

July, 2017

FAFCE: 20 years of work for the integral service to the Family

The members of the European Federation of Catholic Family Associations - FAFCE gathered in Rome for three days at end of last May to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

The highlight of the celebration has been a private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis on 1st June, the International Day of Parents.

Founded in 1997, FAFCE today represents catholic family associations from 14 European countries. The organisation has a participatory status with the Council of Europe and as such is a member of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe. FAFCE is also part of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU.

"This anniversary is an occasion to celebrate 20 years of action to promote the family in Europe and in particular at the European Institutions. Progressively our organisation has developed from a gathering of a few family associations after the end of the cold war into the federation founded in 1997 that is renowned for its action in favour of the family and family friendly policies. We owe a lot to the initiators of this great pan-European adventure", said Antoine Renard who has presided FAFCE since 2009.

As Europe is facing huge challenges the role, place and rights of the family are more important than ever in the political and social landscape. FAFCE wants to contribute to Society through proposals that favour family friendly European policies whilst respecting national competences in the area of family law. An example of this was the "Vote for Family 2014" campaign launched by FAFCE ahead of the European elections in 2014. Dozens of Mem-

bers of the European Parliament signed the campaign manifesto, including the current President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani.

Mr Renard also recalled that "FAFCEs' action is based on the social teaching of the Catholic Church. Our action is fuelled and nourished by our faith as well. In connection with our 20th anniversary FAFCE was consecrated to Virgin Mary on the feast of the Visitation, prior to having the joy to meet with His Holiness Pope Francis. The family is a masterpiece of the Creation, we hope to find inspiration to pursue our action in this spirit and present family relationships as a model of social construction for Europe and for the world".

Receiving FAFCE, Pope Francis underlined that "the family is the foundation of society and it remains the most suitable structure for ensuring for people the integral good necessary for their continuing development". He encouraged FAFCE "to develop with creativity new methods and resources, so that the family can exercise, both in the ecclesial and the civil sectors, the threefold task of supporting the younger generation, accompanying others along the often rocky roads of life, and pointing to values and meanings in the journey of everyday life". The full speech of Pope Francis can be read on the FAFCE website.

Make Mothers Matter
Mouvement Mondial des Mères

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' RIGHTS

MMM at 61st Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

"The Commission recognizes that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their family, and that, in particular, women's contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development."
                    CSW61 Agreed Conclusions, March 2017

The outcome document ("Agreed Conclusions") of the 61st CSW is a comprehensive text reaffirming many of the Member States commitments to women's rights and recognizing the reinforcing relationship between women's economic empowerment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

MMM welcomes the language on the imperative to recognize and better redistribute unpaid family care and domestic work. MMM has successfully advocated the removal of the word "burden" in relation to unpaid care work, arguing instead that, while the drudgery of some domestic work must be reduced, care is an essential work that must be better recognized and valued.

MMM also welcomes the commitment of Member States to *"Recognize the social significance of maternity, paternity, motherhood, fatherhood and the role of parents in the upbringing of children, and promote paid maternity, paternity or parental leave and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, take appropriate steps to ensure*

they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promote men's awareness and use of such opportunities, as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market."

Read the MMM CSW61 Report (in French).

MMM speaks at CSW61 side-event on the need to recognize unpaid family care work as valuable work

The side-event on 15 March was organized by Switzerland on **"Care policies in the Agenda 2030: Advancing the Triple R framework to Recognize, Reduce and Redistribute unpaid care work".**

In its intervention on recognizing the role of mothers, MMM focused on two main points: recognizing unpaid family care work as work, and recognizing unpaid family care work as valuable work. MMM also provided recommendations on each of those.

The issue of Unpaid Care Work is gaining increasing visibility at the international level as one of the main structural barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment and the realization of women's rights. It was on the Commission's agenda and discussed and mentioned in many if not most of its parallel and side-events.

Read the MMM Intervention at CSW61 Side-Event.

MMM submits Written Statement for CSW61

MMM has also submitted a joint written statement ahead of CSW61 which highlights the particular **difficulties that mothers face in the labour market due to their unpaid care work responsibilities and deep-rooted stereotypes**. And these are likely to be exacerbated in the fast-paced, technology centered emerging new world of work. The Statement also makes **recommendations for a better recognition of the unpaid care work and essential role of mothers, and for the imperative to better support their participation in the labour market.**

The statement was endorsed by ten other NGOs.

 Read the MMM Joint Statement as UN Document (Ref. E/CN.6/2017/NGO/49).

Work-life balance a new priority of the European Commission

On 26 April, the European Commission presented an ambitious and comprehensive proposal on "Work-life balance for working parents and carers". MMM is very pleased to see it reflect its demands for a life-cycle approach and is convinced that this initiative has the potential to bring real positive change in the lives of many families. Therefore, the **European delegation of MMM has joined a coalition of NGOs working on the reconciliation of work and family life** to warmly welcome this initiative.

MMM endorses the initiatives improving the current leave schemes as well as provisions of quality, affordable and accessible care services and the introduction of the **right to request flexible working arrangements** (telework, reducing working hours etc.). This has been a demand from MMM for several years and represents a very important measure to enable working mothers to remain or re-enter the labour market.

Some of the measures included are particularly helpful, notably:

1. Introduction of a **paid paternity leave of 10 working days** at EU level at least at the level of sick pay.

2. **Paid parental leave of 4 months** per parent at sick pay level with increased flexibility (it can be taken full time or part time until the child is 12 years old). Payment and flexibility have been proven crucial to increase take-up among fathers.

3. The Directive also introduces a **new carers' leave of 5 days per year** also paid at sick pay level to care for a dependent relative.

It will now have to be discussed in the European Parliament and the Council for its adoption.
For more information see: NGO endorsement: Europe sides with people.

About Make Mother Matter – MMM

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) is an international NGO created in 1947 to raise the awareness of policy makers and public opinion on the contribution of mothers to social, cultural and economic development. MMM has no political or religious affiliations, and thus transparently voices the concerns of mothers at international level with permanent MMM representatives at the United Nations (General Consultative Status), UNESCO and the European Union. MMM federates a network of about 40 grass-root organisations working across the world to advance the rights of women and children.

Compiled by Irina Pálffy-Daun-Seiler, MMM Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, with input from Valérie Bichelmeier, MMM Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, and Olalla Michelena, Secretary General of the European Delegation of MMM.

NGO FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

Recent and Forthcoming events

2017

July 2017
- 25-29: 16th ISFL World Conference: Family Law and Family Realities (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
  http://www.isflhome.org/conference?conference_id=16

September 2017
- 12-16: AAFP Family Medicine Experience (FMX) Meeting (San Antonio, USA)
  http://www.aafp.org/events/fmx/about/past-future.html

October 2017
- 04-06: European FGC Annual Network Meeting 2017 (Prague, Czech Republic)
  http://www.familienrat-fgc.at/

November 2017
- 09-12: National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health 28th Annual Conference (Orlando,FL, USA)
  https://www.ffcmh.org/conference

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