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## **Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**

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### **Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**

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Dear Readers of Families International,

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, which was founded in 1985, organised an International Forum entitled: Thirty Years Vienna NGO Committee on the Family – Outlook to the Future – on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre, to observe this occasion.

The Committee on the Family regards itself as a bridge between Families-Oriented Civil Society Organisations, the United Nations, Governments and Academia. This issue of 'Families International' is devoted to the Proceedings of this International Forum and includes contributions of representatives from all these sectors. The programme and the texts provided by the participants are included in this special issue.

With kind regards,  
Peter Crowley Ph.D.  
Editor

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*From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family*



VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY



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UNITED NATIONS  
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

**FULL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**

CONFERENCE ROOM 6 on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM**

**THIRTY YEARS VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY  
- OUTLOOK TO THE FUTURE -**

10:00 – 11:30 Keynote Speech, Panel Presentations & Discussion

"Demographic Development of Families - an International Retrospective over the last 70 Years"  
(Detlev Lück)

"Cultural Approach on Family, Demography and Policy Making - Status Quo and Outlook to the Future" (Sabine Diabaté)

"Social Policies and the United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda: Gender Equality and Children's Rights in Contemporary Families" (Renata Kaczmarek)

"Social Policies for the Future" Austrian Federal Ministry for Families and Youth (SC Ingrid Nemeč)

“Families of the Future” International Kolping Society (Christine Leopold)

11.30 – 12:00: Coffee Break

12.00 – 12.30: General Discussion

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

### INTERNATIONAL FORUM: Part II

The International Forum will also observe:  
The International Day of Families 2015 &  
The Global Day of Parents 2015

14.00 – 16:00: Panel Presentations by Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and other Families-Oriented Civil Society Organisations on their Outlook to the Future.

16:00 – 17:00 Administrative Session

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## The Impact of Culture on Demographic Changes in Families

*Sabine Diabaté & Detlev Lück*

### Introduction

2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, which was founded in 1945. We take this as an opportunity for a résumé of the development of families, which is one of the focal points of the UN: How have families developed over the course of these 70 years? What have we learned regarding the reasons for these changes and the possibilities to influence them? What does that mean for the outlook on the future of families and the recommendations for NGOs and policy makers regarding their family policies? In accordance with contemporary sociology, by “families” we mean any living arrangement of two or more people, based on mutual close relationships, support and responsibility, and long term commitment.

We are generally interested in the demographic change of families. However, this is a complex process, involving a lot of details, such as the number of births (per couple, per woman, in a given year, in a life course), the number of childless people or of people having 1 child, 2 children, etc., the number of children living in a household, the age at first birth (of women, of men), the spacing of children, infant mortality, the age of children when leaving the parental household, marital births and births out of wedlock, marriage rates, divorce rates, etc. Given the complexity of this topic, we focus on the birth rates (measured as total fertility rates) as the indicator that is studied best and politically most relevant: Whereas, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the world had moved at an increasing

speed towards overpopulation, today many post-industrial societies are shrinking. Both situations cause problems and challenge us. In both cases the birth rate is one of the major driving forces and a key for stabilizing the development.

### Retrospective of the Last 70 Years

Looking back at the demographic development of families during the last 70 years, we find both, continuity and change: Continuity is visible, for example, in a general desire of most people to live in stable (romantic) relationships and to have children as well as in the prioritization of paid work by fathers and of childcare by mothers in industrialized countries. Change is visible in the configurations in which these desires are realised. The 1950s and early 1960s have been called a “golden age of marriage” in which the nuclear family has become a wide-spread standard living arrangement: with a married couple, strictly dividing up, paid and unpaid work, having about two children in their early or mid-20s, and all sharing a common household. The life course and family biography also had a strong tendency to follow a standard pattern in these years. Since then, at least in post-industrial societies much pluralisation and destandardisation is noticeable: Marriage rates drop, the ages at marriage and at first birth rise, births out of wedlock increase (Eurostat 2015).

Birth rates have mainly declined over the course of the last 70 years. However, they have done so in two steps, with most recent

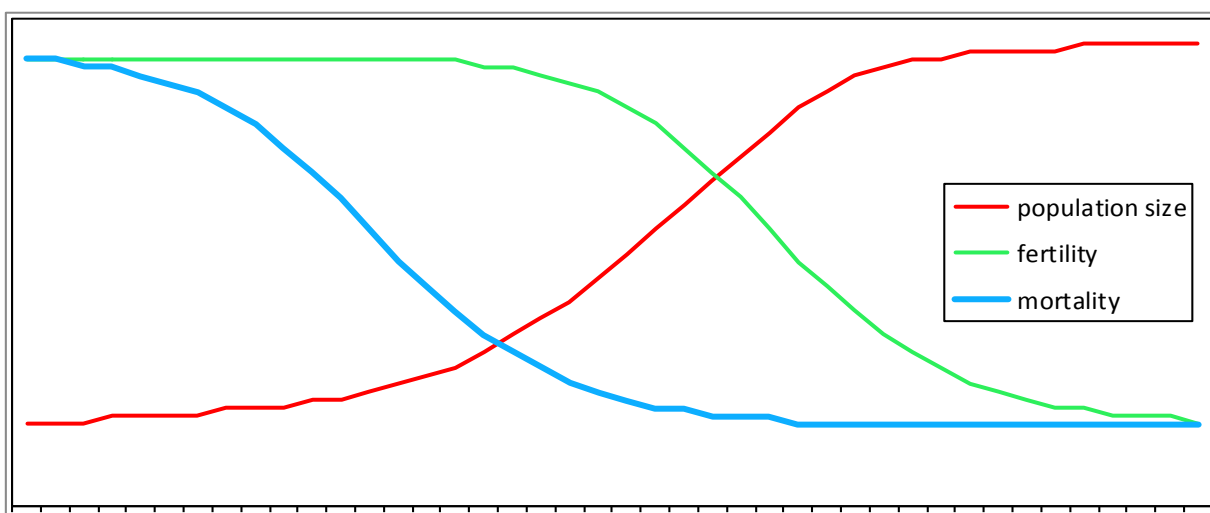
developments pointing partly towards a stabilisation at low levels or even a re-increase. Simplifying the process, we can detect three main stages in the development. They are occurring in different years for different societies, but they are observable globally in very similar ways, which makes them relevant from a UN perspective. These three patterns shall be described in the following.

The first global pattern in fertility rates, we observe, is known as the *(first) demographic transition* (figure 1): This fundamental transformation of demographic behaviour typically occurs during the transition of a society from an agricultural to an industrial country. We can observe change on three demographic dimensions: First, life expectancy rises and particularly infant mortality declines. This is mainly due to better hygienic standards and improved medical care. Second, as a consequence, the population grows. This growth can become very fast, but it occurs only temporarily. Third, with a certain time lag birth rates start to drop, so that the size of the population first of all stabilises at a higher level. The decline in fertility usually starts out at a level of above 4 children per woman and ends at about 2 to 3 children per woman.

This transition has already occurred in Western Europe in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century – well before the 70-year-time span we are looking at here. However, other countries followed and still follow. And from a global perspective the first demographic transition is an on-going phenomenon. It has meanwhile reached most countries in the world. But this transition is rather recent for many so called “developing countries” or less developed countries. The example (figure 2) shows the total fertility rates of countries in South America (Brazil and Panama), Asia (China, India, Pakistan, Mongolia, Azerbaijan), Africa (South Africa) as well as Europe (Ireland and Turkey).

There are different reasons for the decline of birth rates during the first demographic transition. The most important explanations are offered by the “value of children” approach as well as by the economic theory: First of all, in an economy increasingly based on industrial work, instead of farming, children are no longer or to a lesser degree needed as worker on the farm or in the own business. Secondly, systems of pensions, healthcare and social security are introduced and are improved further, giving people more security in life, so children are less needed for caretaking in sickness or in old age. Remaining reasons for having children are e.g. joy, affection or carry-

Figure 1: The Scheme of the (First) Demographic Transition; Sources: own illustration

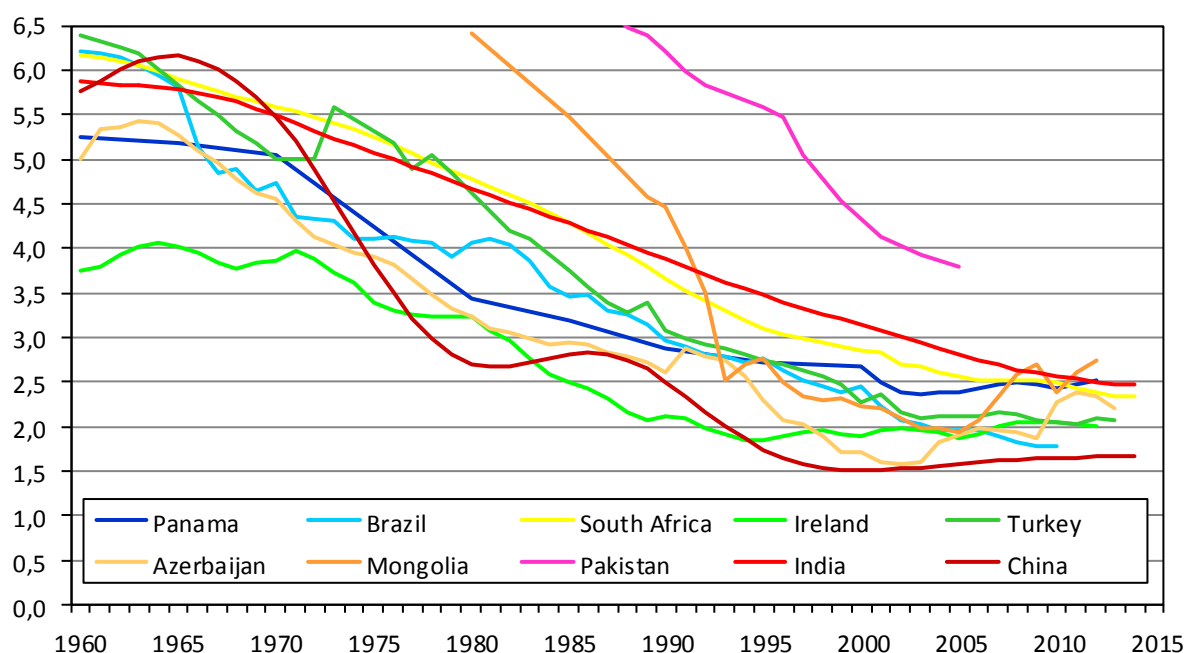


ing on the family tradition – rather emotional than practical benefits. For achieving these, one or two children are enough (Nauck 2007, Nauck/Klaus 2007). At the same time the “costs” of children rise and with it the reasons *not* to have (many) children. The “new” reasons for having children require more investment in each child, e.g. in their education (so that they get a good job), in their health, in their talents and goals (so that they are happy).

tural societies used to invest. Therefore, it is reasonable to concentrate the available resources on fewer children.

The second global pattern in fertility rates, we observe, is known as the *second demographic transition*: It took place in the highest developed countries, in Europe and Northern America, mainly in the period from 1965-1975, partly later. During this transition family life underwent fundamental changes in many ways: A “pluralisation” of family forms can be observed, so-called “alternative” family forms, aside from the nuclear family, become socially accepted, so people today are more free to

Figure 2: Declining Fertility during the (First) Demographic Transition in Selected Countries



Sources: Human Fertility Collection (VID/MPIDR) / Eurostat / OECD Family Database

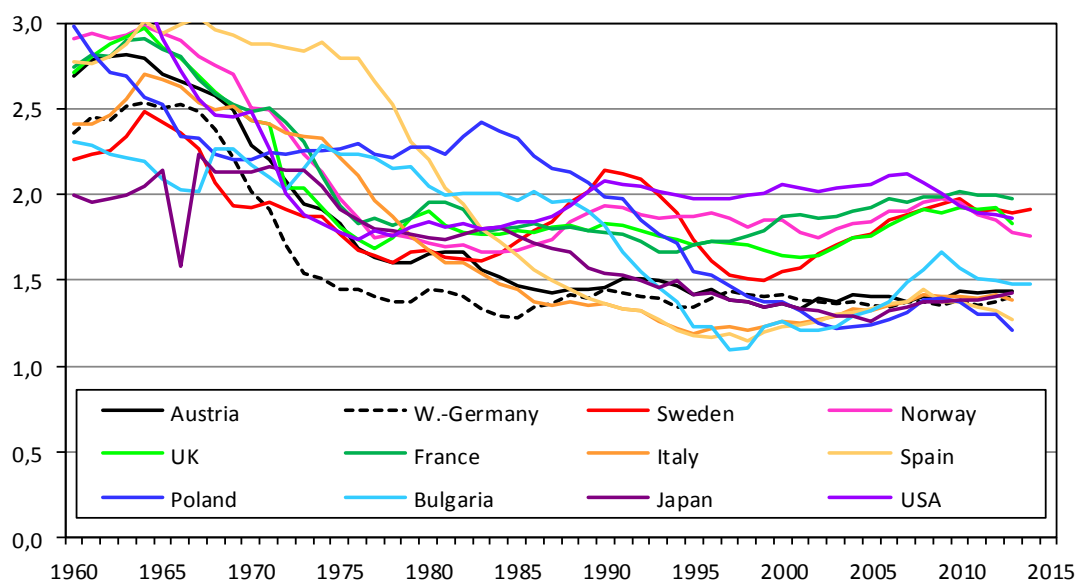
So, parents have to invest more time and money in each child than parents in agricul-

create their living arrangements according to their individual options and needs. Sexuality is detached from marriage; sexuality and marriage are detached from having children. Couples start cohabiting without being married, the age at marriage and at first birth rises. Divorce rates increase.

Within the second demographic transition birth rates drop again. The main characteristic of this process is the decline of fertility below replacement level: rates of about 2 to 3 children per woman fall to about 1.2 to 1.8 children – a rate lower than needed for replacing the previous generation (without immigration).

In most countries presented (cp. figure 3) the decline started in the mid-1960s and ended in the mid-1970s. In Southern Europe (Italy and Spain) as well as in Japan, it occurred later, mostly during the 1980s. In the 1990s, after the fall of the ‘iron curtain’, it finally reached Eastern Europe (Poland and Bulgaria). The most important reasons for the second demographic transition (described by van de Kaa 1987 and Lestaege 1995) can be found in the so-called value change: After the end of World War II and the post-war economic upswing, societies have been organized in a way that people have a secure existence in peace and enough to eat. The next generation growing up in such an environment develops “post-materialist” values, such as autonomy, participation, self-fulfilment, well-being, etc. This development has consequences for individual lives and life courses in general, including the way of practicing family life. People generally have higher expectancies towards a potential partner and a relationship.

Figure 3: Declining Fertility during the Second Demographic Transition in Selected Countries



Sources: Human Fertility Collection (VID/MPIDR) / Eurostat / OECD Family Database.

This might contribute to the fact, that people stay single longer and that relationships become more fragile, so that the chance in life to have children may be missed. Also, couples try to find egalitarian work-arrangements and women are less ready to give up their economic independence for becoming a mother. If paid work and unpaid work do not seem compatible without violating an egalitarian arrangement, couples may decide to remain childless instead. On the other hand, remaining childless becomes an option that is easier to choose because it is less stigmatized and such alternative family forms seem to be more accepted among society.

The third global pattern in fertility rates, we observe, is a recently identified *divide of societies in two clusters*: As can be seen in figure 3, the level of fertility after the second



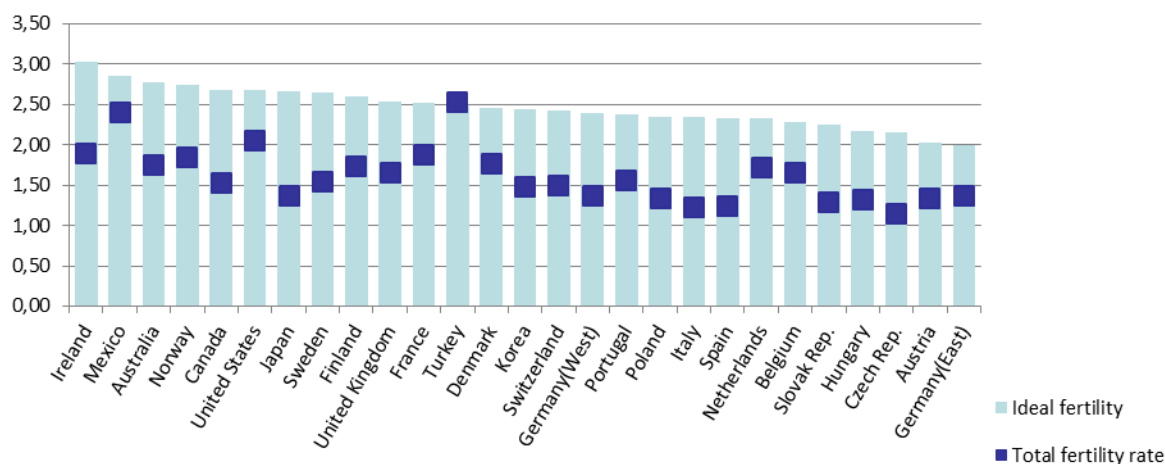
demographic transition differs between the countries. They tend to split up in two groups: in low and “lowest-low” fertility countries with total fertility rates slightly below 1.5 and in countries with total fertility rates slightly below 2.0, close to replacement level. The first group mainly consists of Eastern and Southern Europe, the German-speaking countries and Japan. The second group mainly consists of Northern America, (other) English-speaking countries, Northern Europe, and France. Some countries (e.g. Sweden, UK, France, Norway) have even managed to slightly increase their TFR over the last 20 years.

This last pattern is not well-explained yet. It indicates that there are better and worse ways of adjusting to the second demographic transition and people’s changing expectations towards life. These adjustments may be found, for example, in family policies, in economic structures or in the cultures of the respective countries.

ily size people would prefer in order to be able to compare the TFR (total fertility rate) to ideal fertility rates (figure 4). First of all, we see a smaller total range; most of the people want two to three children. So the „ideal family size“ is much more homogeneous than the TFR. Secondly, international data illustrate a big gap between the realized and the ideal family size. But the gap is not always same-sized, country differences are visible, only in Turkey the actual and the ideal number of children is identical. In the other countries, there is a gap between wish and reality regarding the family size.

Figure 4: Total fertility rates and the ideal family size, 2010-2012

Source: Source: World Value Survey wave 6.



### In What Way Are Societies Challenged by Low Fertility Levels?

Beside the fact of how many children were born in a country, we could ask about the fam-

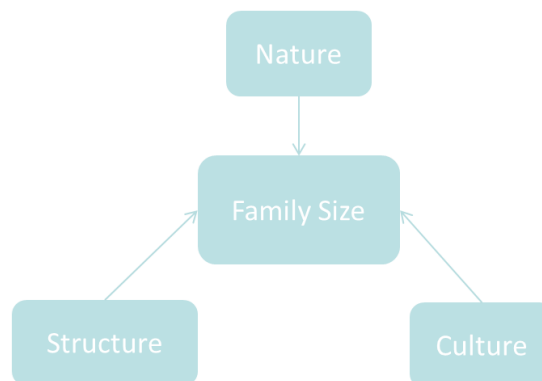
The biggest gap can be found in Japan. This means that people who want to have a (bigger) family often don’t realize their ideal family size. This is an important field for public policy as well as for science. It is necessary to identi-

fy the respective obstacles in order to reduce the gap, so that people can fulfill their wishes and ideals with regard to family life.

### Understanding family size - how to explain the gap

To understand the gap between realized and ideal family size three determinants (figure 5) are important: Natural, structural and cultural factors determine the size of a family; this is just a simplification of a complex scheme. Beside Nature, which is a focus in (reproductive) medicine and biology, there are structural and cultural explanations to understand the gap between ideal and factual fertility behavior: The explanations partly derive from the thesis of the second demographic transition and partly from rational choice theories, which say, that human beings act with intentions on utility-maximization and on reduction of opportunity costs. In structural terms, people are influenced by their working regimes, their working culture in the job sphere and the social context, they live in. So decision-making and sharing employment and family work among the partners is linked to costs or opportunity structure like childcare infrastructure. Thus, structure matters somehow, but it should be supplemented by cultural explanations. Because decision-making is also shaped by personal beliefs and social norms, which vice versa influence the given infrastructure of societies.

Figure 5: Understanding family size - Trias of determinants



Source: Schneider, Diabaté, Lück 2014, translated and modified.

This gets clearer by the correlation between daycare for children under three years and fertility, measured by the TFR (figure 6). Public infrastructure for childcare seems to be strongly associated with fertility, because increasing numbers of women are highly educated and want to be financially independent. Thus, external childcare is on the one hand a catalyst of women's participation in the job market, and on the other hand, it is a mirror of public opinion with regard to gender equality. Countries like Germany and Austria, with lower daycare rates, have a lower birth rate than countries like France or the Scandinavian countries. Structure seems to matter somehow. But how can we e.g. explain the case of the United States? Despite success in explaining some patterns e.g. high fertility in countries with good public childcare and distinct social security benefits, other findings remain unclear, e.g. high fertility in the US with insufficient public childcare and hardly any public financial support for families, e.g. paid mater-

nity leave like in Germany is unusual. It seems that fertility cannot only be explained by structural factors.

What is lacking is a comprehensive theoretical explanation. The psychological-emotional value of children is already attained through a first child; nevertheless in many European countries the most frequent parity is two children. Assuming economic rational decision-making, women's high human capital should have led either to a prevalence of childlessness or to a quite equal distribution of paid and unpaid work within couples. Yet a large majority of couples still expresses a desire to have children and in the majority of family households, men remain the breadwinner.

In cross-country comparisons, we do not only find higher birth rates in those countries with an above-average availability of public childcare (which can reduce the opportunity costs of children) such as Sweden or France, but also in countries like Great Britain, the United States or Australia where public childcare is hardly provided at all.

In this context family size can be explained by institutional and cultural factors. It seems obvious that, given the development of structural circumstances, family lives in Europe could have changed much more than they actually have. We assume that there needs to be a substantial cultural influence holding change back and stabilizing given patterns. Theories describing such an influence exist, but there are, in comparison, few and within current family research hardly any of them is frequently used or well accepted.

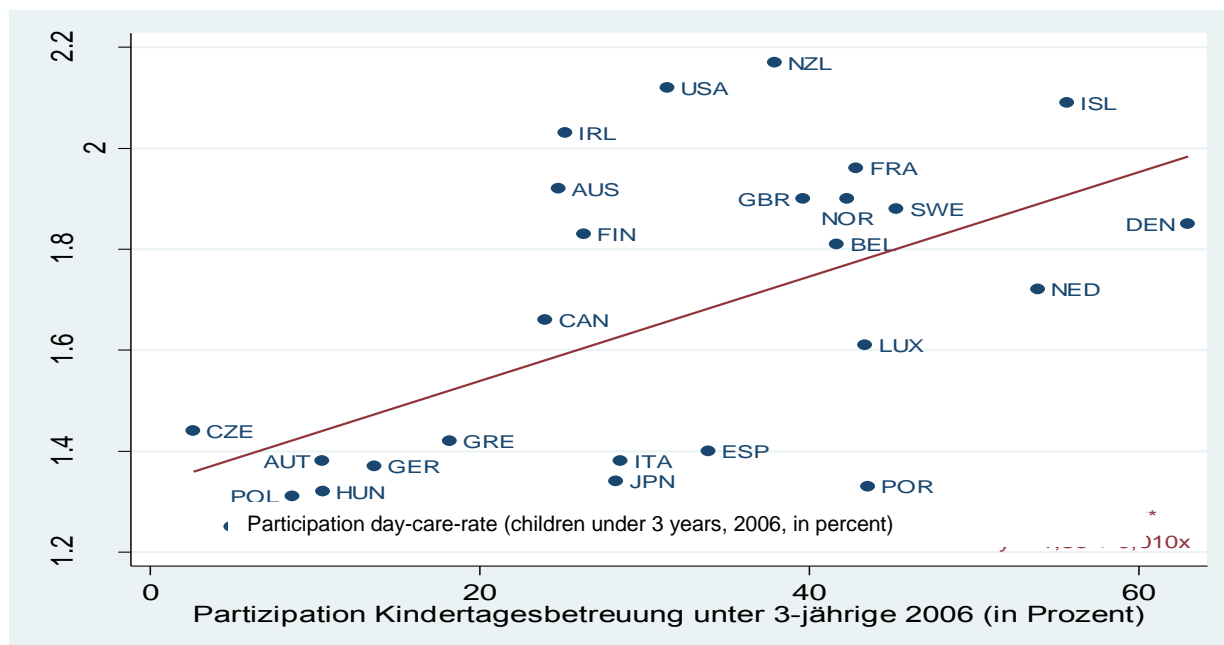
Our aim is to complement structural with cultural arguments by a so-called "leitbild"-approach through measuring the cultural characteristics more precisely. In doing so, we want to review and to reawaken given cultural theoretical explanations for the persistence of given behavioural patterns and we want to develop a concept for contemporary family and demographic research. With the theoretical outline we also present a methodological approach of measuring "leitbilder" as well as some descriptive results for Germany that support the theoretical assumptions.

Figure 6: Correlations between daycare (children under 3 years) and fertility (TFR)

Source: Graph: Martin Bujard (2010). Numbers: OECD 2008, 2009, 2010, Statistisches Bundesamt 2008

### The Leitbild Concept

The German term "leitbild" (plural: "leitbilder") is difficult to translate. In English it therefore



mostly remains untranslated and is used as a Germanism instead. The verb “leiten” means to lead or to guide. The noun “Bild” means picture or image. A reasonable translation for the compound word “leit-bild” could be “guiding image”. It expresses an idea or a conception of how things in a certain context should be or could look like. It can have the character of a role model or of an ideal or a vision to strive for – e.g. a “happy family” or a “happy marriage” or even an ideal leitbild of timing for specific life events like first birth (similar to the concept of social age deadlines or cultural life scripts). Leitbild should be understood as a bundle of collectively shared and visually imagined conceptions of normality in family life – implying that something is personally desired, socially expected, and/or presumably very widespread, i.e. common and self-evident. Leitbilder are complex constructions comprising several conceptions of normalcy. The leitbild concept assumes that actors usually do not have single isolated perceptions but rather whole sets of interrelated views.

### Findings from Leitbild-research

The essence of leitbild-research at the Federal Institute of Population Research (Germany, Wiesbaden) is measuring the cultural attitudes of younger adults, who are currently in the stage of starting a family. Young people aged between 20 and 39 were asked about family life. Some questions of the German

leitbild survey were implemented in a French panel, too. Thus, it is possible to analyse cross-national differences. Respondents were, for example, asked about their personal opinion whether it is “normal” to have no children (chart 6).

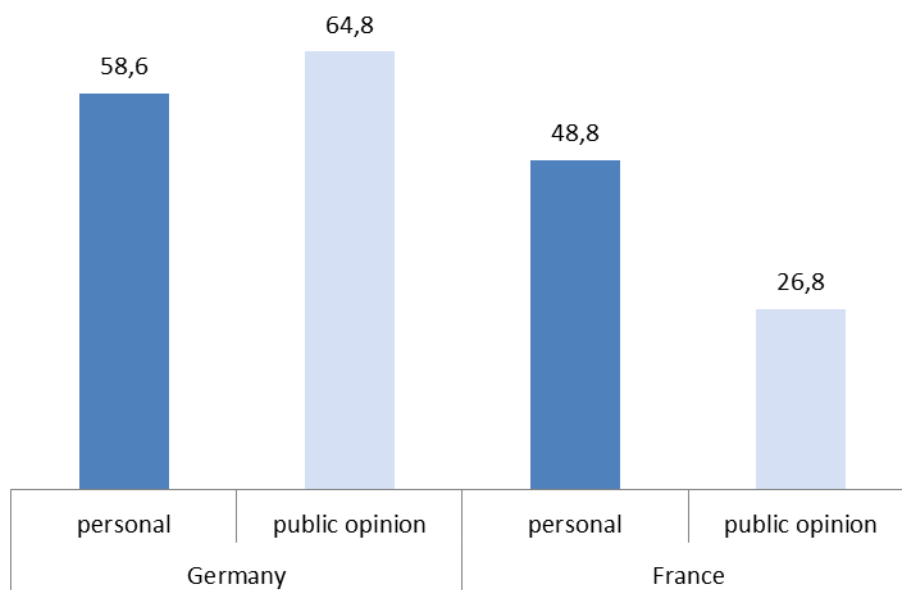


Figure 6: Acceptance of childlessness: Low-fertility vs. high-fertility-EU-country (Nowadays it is normal not to have children: slightly/strongly agree)

Source: Own calculations based on Familienleitbildstudie (FLB 2012, BiB): respondents aged 20 to 39 years, weighted data; N=5.000 / Étude Longitudinale par Internet pour les Sciences Sociales (ELIPSS 2013): respondents aged 21 to 40 years; N=323 (INED, Paris, France)

We measure leitbilder on two different dimensions: First we ask what people think personally, and secondly, we are interested in what people perceive to be the public opinion in society on certain family-related topics. One result is, for example, that childlessness is less common in France than in Germany. This finding might be explained by the fact that the French society seems to be more family-oriented. Probably leitbilder can help to get a

deeper understanding of differences between countries and regions. The question for further research is to investigate whether these differences influence decision-making in the case of fertility.

## Conclusion and Outlook

With regard to birth rates, there is a discrepancy between ideal and real family sizes, which cannot only be understood by structural but also by cultural aspects: Beside infrastructural problems like the incompatibility of work and family, mainly in European countries, there are additional cultural reasons for the phenomenon of low fertility. On the one hand, there is a domination of a working-culture which focuses on the principle of many hours-higher outcome which means: in order to be successful you have to spend many hours at work. On the other hand, we observe a persistence of exaggerated demands on parenthood, e.g. the myth of motherhood is widespread in countries like Germany and Austria. The idea is that the persistence of social norms and cultural ideals put people under pressure to behave in a certain way, although they might want to behave differently, but they are afraid of being judged by society. A leitbild can have a retarding impact on actual family lives in several ways: The demanding idea of parenting such as in Germany shows that a leitbild can make a certain step in a family career seem so challenging that it leads to a delay or it even finally discourages people from pursuing it. Leitbilder may interact with rational decision-making by influencing people to become a parent in later life, postponement is often linked with undesired childlessness. Leitbilder may also inter-

act with the available economic resources such as public childcare. Thus, family-related leitbilder might be seen as additional obstacles for the demographic development. We will now focus on the interaction between culture (leitbild) and structure (politics) in order to explain fertility.

### *Outlook to the future*

For the anticipated future family development some main aspects of family life can be outlined: Across Europe, there will be a two-sided pattern of development in fertility matters. In the countries with higher fertility like e.g. Ireland, Island or Turkey, childlessness will rise and fewer large families will be observed. In other countries like France or Sweden fertility will rise because of a family-focussed policy-making. Generally, the development of fertility is somehow linked with the policy-making of countries. In the case of Germany, we observe slightly rising fertility rates among academics due to parental-leave-benefit-models like "Elterngeld". But nevertheless, it is not only about politics, culture in fact also matters. It influences the way people think of a perfect family life and the ways economy and working culture is shaped in a country.

As a consequence, the number of singles and smaller families will rise. Additionally, people in Europe will have longer lives, so that inter-generational relationships change. Despite these possible scenarios, pluralisation spread out, non-conventional forms of family life will get more and more common. Another scenario could be a reduction of childlessness if the countries optimize the reconciliation of work and family – the degree of family-friendliness in policies and in society generally seems to be connected to fertility. At the same time, the

normative expectations on parenthood could rise in connection to the culture of competition on the job markets and the changing economy. Possible outcomes could be a demand for more flexibility on the job market, which further complicates the reconciliation of work and family. Finally the described aspects could lead to less intergenerational resources, which will be a challenge for social welfare systems across Europe. So one of the main aims of future public policy-making is to work on a sustainable family and gender mainstreaming, which includes father empowerment: Politics can use the link between infrastructure and culture, by the social and financial enhancement of care-work. A consequence should be that “care” gets less female connotation so that men also feel attracted to jobs in the education and care system. The awareness of this connection can help to create new laws and make more investments which have a symbolic power on the societal climate and the acceptance of e.g. new working models to help parents to share paid and unpaid work equally. Powerful instruments for gender equality could be e.g. quota in the job

market, better payment and revaluation of care-work (also by a higher education of future care-workers to care-specialists) and more regulations for the right on flexible innovative working time directives, because job markets so far often dominate family life. Even more investment in high-quality-childcare-infrastructure could have an impact. Finally, we observe in Scandinavian countries, that more gender equality is connected with higher birth rates.

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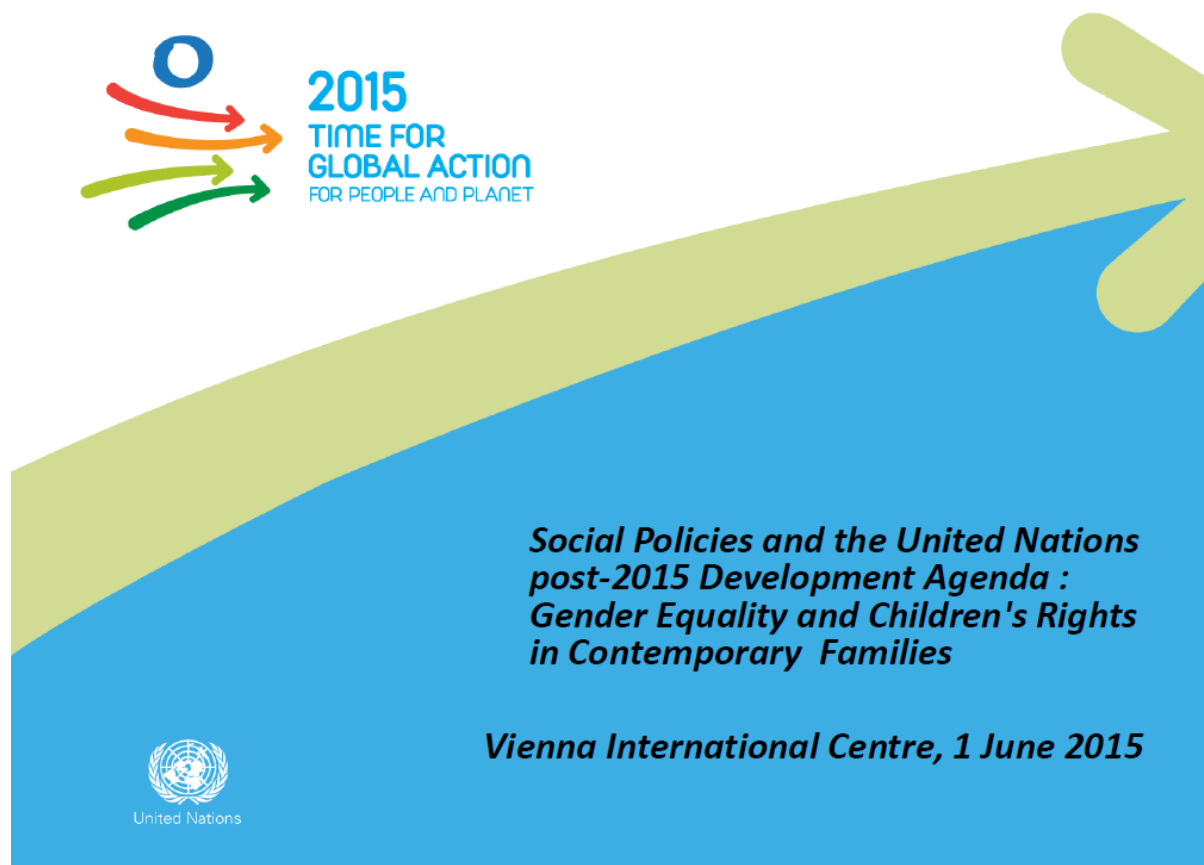
<http://www.bib-demografie.de/leitbild>

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**Thirts Years Vienna NGO Committee on the Family – Outlook to the Future**



Vienna NGO Committee on the Family  
INTERNATIONAL FORUM

**Thirty Years Vienna NGO Committee on the Family – Outlook to the Future**

***Social Policies and the United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda:  
Gender Equality and Children's Rights in Contemporary Families***

Statement by Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat  
Vienna International Centre, 1 June, 2015

It is my honour and distinct pleasure to talk to you today in my capacity as the Focal Point on the Family in the UN system.

Thank you for inviting me here to celebrate with you this landmark 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family. Congratulations to you all!

Last year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, yet, your existence precedes that im-

portant landmark – the observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 itself.

It was in Vienna, where the Secretariat for the International Year of the Family worked to make the year a success. You contributed to the success of the year then and were so supportive of its 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. I truly appreciate all your efforts and assistance.

Today we are to look to the future so my presentation will mainly focus on the role of family policy in the future UN sustainable development goals and their achievement.

As you may know, the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for designing development goals that focus on reaching excluded groups. "Leave no one behind," they urged the Secretary-General, adding, "We should ensure that no person—regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race, or status—is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities."

The very recognition of our human capabilities starts in families. In fact, well-functioning families have numerous functions so important in the overall development.

They are reproductive and productive units. They provide economic and emotional support to their members and care for the most vulnerable family members. They generate productive workers, they build competence and character. They truly contribute to social integration and social cohesion.

In turn, family-oriented policies support family functions and focus on family units as changing & dynamic entities. Their goal is also to promote child and youth well-being as well as healthy & reciprocal intergenerational relations.

Importantly, family policies as well as family laws should promote access to justice for families and promote gender equality and children's rights as well.

In sum, they should truly aim at achieving long-term solutions to persistent development problems such as inequality and inter-generational transfer of poverty.

Turning to the United Nations framework of dealing with family issues we should mention its overall human rights instruments and the Universal Declaration of Human rights noting the family as a basic unit of society deserving protection by society and the state. Then we should keep in mind the 1990s framework referring to the UN conferences & summits, including Population and Women conferences and the World Summit for Social Development.

Next comes the 2000 framework with its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with several MDGs closely related to families, such as education of children, gender equality & women's empowerment as well as reduction in child and maternal mortality (cf. below).

I believe we have learnt from MDGs in terms of recognition that ensuring work-family balance is closely related to gender equality. In fact, the latest *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014* acknowledges that 'More family-friendly policies are needed to support greater women's participation in the job market'. In addition it has been recognized that the time-related underemployment rate for women is higher than for men, which calls for more family-friendly policies encouraging not only better work-family balance, 'but also enhance the quality of part-time jobs and improve overall business productivity. The policies include legislation on flexible time, parental leave, codes of conduct and new working practices. As well as childcare and elderly-care facilities' as the MDG Report 2014 tells us.

In terms of draft Sustainable Development Goals (cf. below), there are several is-



sues impacting development & relating to family, including gender equality issues (average marriage age of women, child marriage, rates of women literacy, girl child's school enrolment, harmful traditional practices); public investment in health and education and labour issues, such as legislation to provide all workers with a minimum living wage sufficient to support a family to live with dignity, particularly those in the informal sector, women, domestic and migrant workers.

It is also clear from recent demographic and social trends that the two areas bound to gradually grow in importance are work-family balance and intergenerational issues. Recent trends, such as rapidly falling fertility rates in developed countries, family instability, growing divorce rates as well as mounting difficulties in family formation encountered by young people necessitate urgent action especially in the area of work-family balance and sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, changing family structures, urbanization and mobility as well as rapid ageing and challenges of ensuring human rights and dignity for older persons require a serious look at policies supporting healthy and reciprocal intergenerational interactions so that generations are not perceived as competing against one another.

We can see that both issues are not sufficiently addressed at the international forum despite their growing implications for issues such as the future of women's labour participation and ageing. Depending on the support of Member States, a systematic follow up on family policy development in these areas could be pursued and coordinated.

The design, development, implementation and monitoring of family-oriented policies and programmes are essential for the success in achieving several goals of the draft post-2015 development agenda, such as ensuring healthy lives and promoting of well-being for

all ages; achieving of gender equality, empowering all women and girls as well as providing of access to justice for all.

In terms of achieving draft sustainable development goal # 16 – Access to justice - it is also important to demonstrate how reforming discriminatory family laws; challenging of social norms that support male control over women and justify or condone violence against women or other vulnerable family members and eliminating violence against children and children's exposure to various types of family violence may contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals

In some regions, discrimination against women, often perpetuated at the family level, is built into legal frameworks and government policies. Family laws may actually codify discrimination against women and girls and place them in a subordinate position to men in families, replicated at the community and society level.

Societal customs, often reflected in existing laws may condone practices reinforcing inequality and violate children's rights, such as dowry or early, enforced and child marriage, leading to various forms of gender inequality and injustice. Discrimination against girl child enforces inequality within families may also be perpetuated for economic reasons and due to social norms such as the desire for sons, who have filial obligations to care for their ageing parents or dowry-related financial reasons. What's more, family relations are often regarded as a private domain with family laws lacking specific provisions of intervention by the State.

A growing number of countries have outlawed gender discrimination and made better provisions to protect children within families but urgent family law reforms and policy initiatives are still needed to ensure better protection of women and children from various forms of violence and abuse.

Fair legal frameworks to ensure gender equality and fulfil children's rights within families and beyond form basis of just societies and are indispensable for the achievement of development goals. Importantly, national family laws should comply with international standards and ensure the rights of all family members.

As prevailing discriminatory attitudes and social norms permit violence, strategies must also aim at changing such attitudes and norms and a variety of interventions have to take place at family and community level.

In conclusion, family-friendly legal frameworks and public policies should result in self-sufficient, wealthy & resilient families; healthy

& educated children; improved access to decent work for family bread-winners, men and women alike; better work-family balance; gender equality; fulfillment of children's rights; stronger intergenerational bonds and as such they are bound to contribute to the achievement of development goals!

I encourage you to support the United Nations and the Focal Point on the Family in the next years and decades to come so that we can achieve future sustainable development goals and contribute to family well-being worldwide.

Thank you!

## 2000 Framework: MDGs with special relevance to families

- Poverty reduction
- Education of children
- Gender equality & women empowerment
- Reduction in child and maternal mortality



The Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to poverty, education and maternal mortality reduction are difficult to achieve unless the strategies to achieve them focus on the family.



## Draft SDGs

- Goal 1 **End poverty** in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 **End hunger**, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and **promote lifelong learning opportunities for all\***
- Goal 5 **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls\*\***
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, **full and productive employment and decent work for all**
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 **Reduce inequality\*\*\*** within and among countries

\* Depends on intergenerational relations

\*\* Child marriage is often a family decision

\*\*\* Inequality is linked to family structure



## Draft SDGs

- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change & its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide **access to justice\*** for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

\* Family law reforms



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<http://undesadspd.org/Family.aspx>



## Statement für 30 Years Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

1.6.2015, Vienna International Centre

### Ausblick auf das „Schicksal“ der Familie in den nächsten 10 Jahren



Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen!

Thank you very much for your invitation. It's a pleasure for me to be here as a representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Families and Youth at the Full Committee Meeting on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vienna NGO Committee on the Family. By the way, this anniversary is another important one continuing the celebrations of 2014 with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth in 2014.

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Families and Youth focuses on the interests of families with the aim of supporting them to a maximum. To this end, Austria understands the term "family" in an inclusive way. Across the EU, as in the rest of the world, families have changed and continue to change with time - illustrating the fact that a family is a living, dynamic entity. Therefore, we believe that we must all continue to recognise this diversity, and ensure that this diversity is reflected in inclusive family policies. Nevertheless, still more than 80 % (87%) of all children in Austria are living with their mother and father in one household, but unmarried

parents are increasing. The share of single parents remains stable.

Although reconciling family and work has become very important in the past and many measures were established, in the future this topic will become even more important for example due to the constantly growing labour force of women. The key to a better reconciliation is a family-friendly working environment which makes it easier for employees to combine their private with their working life. Family-friendly employers but also communities will play a more important role in the future. Flexible working hours, in-house childcare facilities or parental leave management as well as amenities and services for families by the communities will be more inquired in the future.

Companies and communities which offer family-friendly measures will benefit because they are regarded as a great place to work or live. In the future it will be more difficult to find professionals. Family-friendliness will be a major advantage in competition and family-friendly communities should be able to stop the rural depopulation of young pe-

ople. As a result of this initiatives like the "Work and Family Audit" (since 1998, was introduced to help companies create a family-friendly environment) or the State Prize "Companies for families" (formerly called State Prize "Most family-friendly company") will gain more importance.

Austria has one of the most developed systems of family benefits and ranks internationally very high in terms of financial support for families, but also immaterial support for families, such as parental education, family counselling and family research, is granted by the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth as well. Our intention is to keep the level of financial benefits at its standard and increase the benefit in kind. For example, the support of expansion of childcare facilities with an extra of 305 million Euro, which is the biggest initiative ever. The aim is to support young families reconciling family and work and to guarantee needs-oriented, flexible and individual models of childcare offers.

As I mentioned at the beginning, families have changed and continue to change with time – illustrating the fact that a family is a living, dynamic entity. A living society is always transforming and families are main part of it. Several sociologically processes influence the structure of families – for example how long people are in education has a major impact

on the individuals and determines families as well. As the duration of education increases, the age of getting married or pregnant proceeds. The changing gender roles of men and women also influence the family structures, identity and assignment of tasks. The reconciliation of family and work is nowadays a challenge for both genders. The Federal Ministry of Families and Youth provides incentives for a more mutual division of family and childcare work like the income-related childcare allowance or an extended childcare allowance when both parents share it equally, in the future the distribution of roles and unpaid work within the family and in addition the participation of fathers will be subject of a change too.

Our aim for the future is: In 2025 Austria should be the most family-friendly country in Europe! We are constantly working on the framework for families to improve the daily and working life conditions of families in Austria. The aim for 2025 can be achieved together with the economy, the social partners and the society.

According to this aim the network "Unternehmen für Familien" – "companies for families" was launched by the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth in March 2015 as a platform for companies and communities. The main aim of the network is to transform reconcilia-

tion of family and work into a natural and self-evident topic. Further aims are that partners are role models and an important factor for other companies and communities to give good examples for family-friendly measures well-known in the public. In addition, the connection and interaction of companies and communities which have already launched family-friendly measures in their field of action and others which are planning these measures should be promoted. Partners of “Unternehmen für Familien” should come together to initialise new projects, e.g. local

companies and municipal administration. Such outstanding projects improve the reconciliation of family and work life for the people in this region and guarantee for a more family-friendly working and living environment. The Federal Ministry of Families and Youth believes that goal-oriented cooperations will open new options for families in Austria because of their innovation, creativity and flexibility.

Thank you very much for your attention!

**Mag. Christine Leopold**  
**President Kolping Society Austria**  
**International Kolping Society**

Thank you very much for the invitation and the opportunity to share with you a few aspects about the beginning of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family.

Having been formed in 1985, with a large group of NGOs dealing with different family questions, the Vienna NGO Committee was well prepared to contribute to the success of the first International Year on the Family, which was observed in 1994.

Our Committee regarded itself as an umbrella organization to;

- build awareness on family concerns
- cooperate with units of the United Nations and
- build a platform for information exchange.

My organisation, the International Kolping Society, one of those founding NGOs, was very grateful to have this international focus on families and their concerns, through the large network of the United Nations.

The aims of the Committee were to give service to the international network for information-exchange through

- our Quarterly Bulletin “Families International”
- International Seminars on different topics
- Regular Background Information Papers related to the Theme of the International Day of Families on 15th May each year.

We all tried to build a global platform through exchange, joint actions, lobbying and servicing the network of family interested organisations. Different working groups were established with a focus on Africa, Central and European Countries and the United Nations Commission for Social Development.

My organisation, the International Kolping Society, consists of family like communities in more than 60 countries worldwide. We focus on the development of families as a main interest. Through different projects we endeavour to strengthen families, e.g. through income generating projects, with the aim of reaching self dependency to enable living in dignity. We also focus on family issues in different seminars, e.g. “People need Family - Children need Parents.” We further organize discussions with politicians to increase their awareness of family concerns and we stand for the drafting and approval of legislation initiatives which are family friendly.





### Three Functions of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Peter Crowley Ph.D.  
Secretary of the Committee

1. Maintain a Network of Networks
2. Bridge Builder
3. Provides Educational & Information Services

The Committee is an Umbrella of NGOs accredited at the United Nations Office in Vienna, and it is not itself an NGO.

1. Network of Networks: Four websites have been set up by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family as a Unity in Diversity.
2. The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family also understands itself as a Bridge Builder between Families-Oriented Civil Society Organisations, Governments of Member States of the United Nations and Academia.
3. The Committee further provides Educational & Information Services through its Quarterly Bulletin 'Families International' published online by the Committee at: [www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org)

#### **The Network of Networks:**

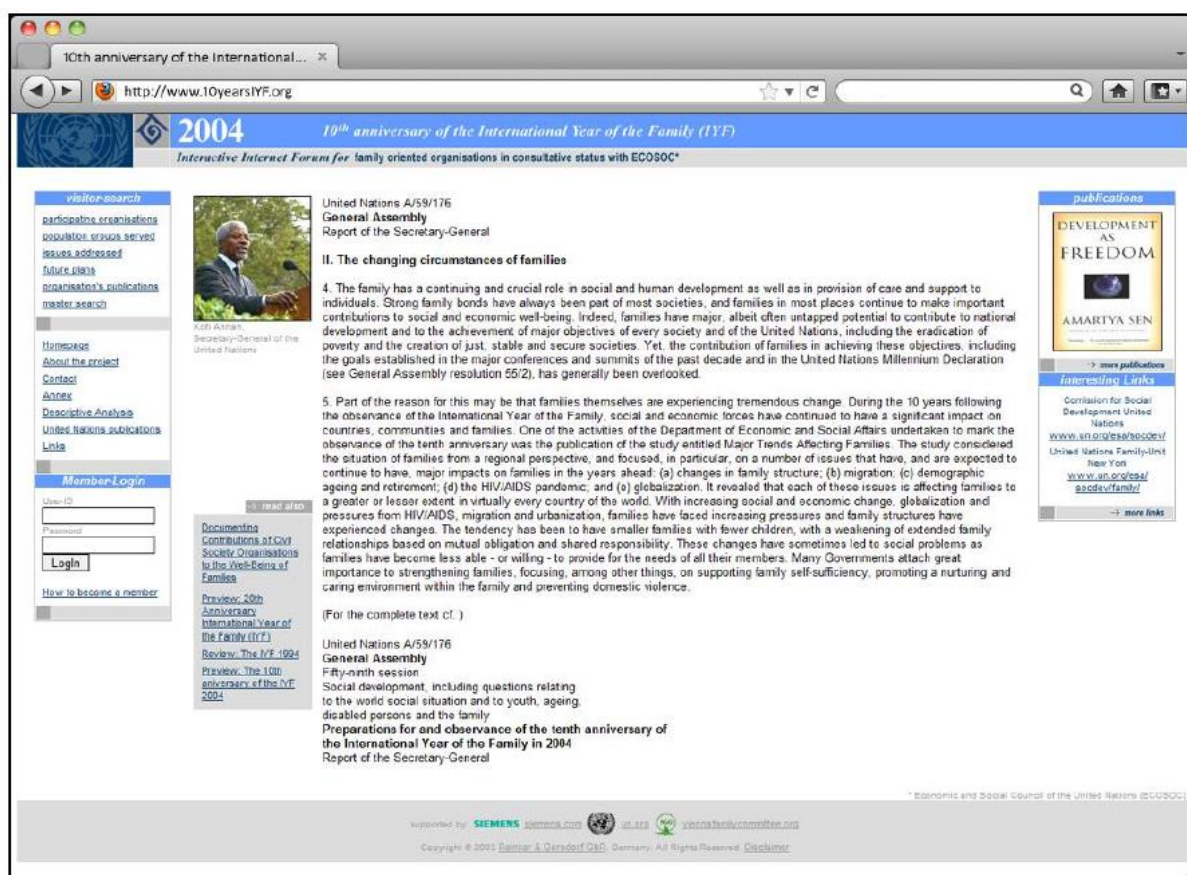
Websites of the Committee on the Family: The Committee went online for the first time, in 2000, 15 years after it was founded in 1985. The Committee is particularly grateful to Paul Reinker, Berlin, for his commitment and support of the Committee. Paul has provided the Internet Services for all four of the Committee Websites, since the Committee first went online in 2000, which is also seen as an expression of the intergenerational solidarity and support, which the Committee is privilege to.

(a) [www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org) [since 2000]



Visitors to Committee Website:  
[www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org)  
2010 16.129  
2014 38.399

(b) [www.10yearsiyf.org](http://www.10yearsiyf.org) [since 2004]



Visitors to this Website:

[www.10yearsiyf.org](http://www.10yearsiyf.org)

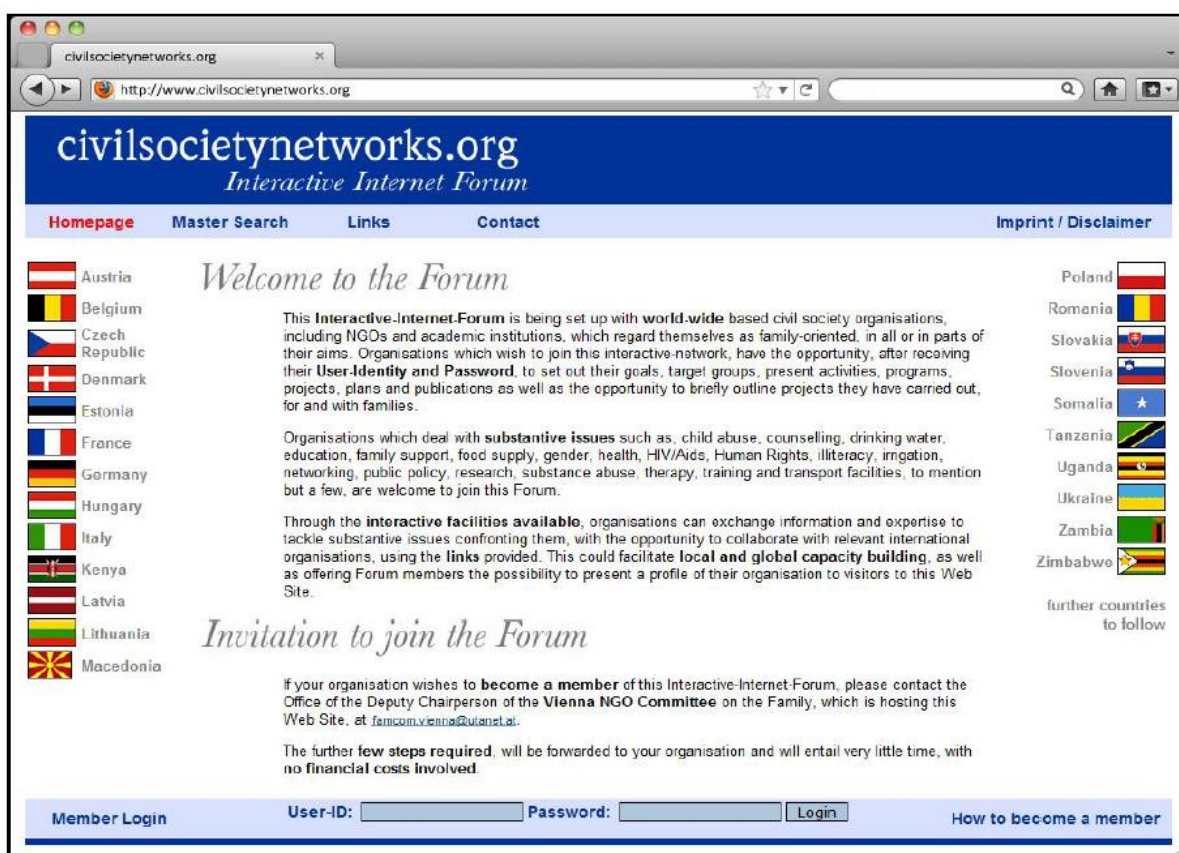
2010	11.224
2014	58.714

This website was set up to facilitate a study of the “Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families” and is a resource archive for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004, with many relevant links to other sources. It resulted out of the participation of the then Chairperson of the Committee in a consultative meeting of international and regional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) set up by the United Nations Secretariat in New York, in 2002, to implement a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to observe the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004. At that consultative meeting it was agreed to prepare a study, under the chairmanship of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family on: ‘Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families’ since 1994. The original study was published in book form with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities in 1994, under the title: ‘Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families’, edited by P. Crowley and submitted to the members of the special session of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of

the United Nations on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 2004, to officially observe the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

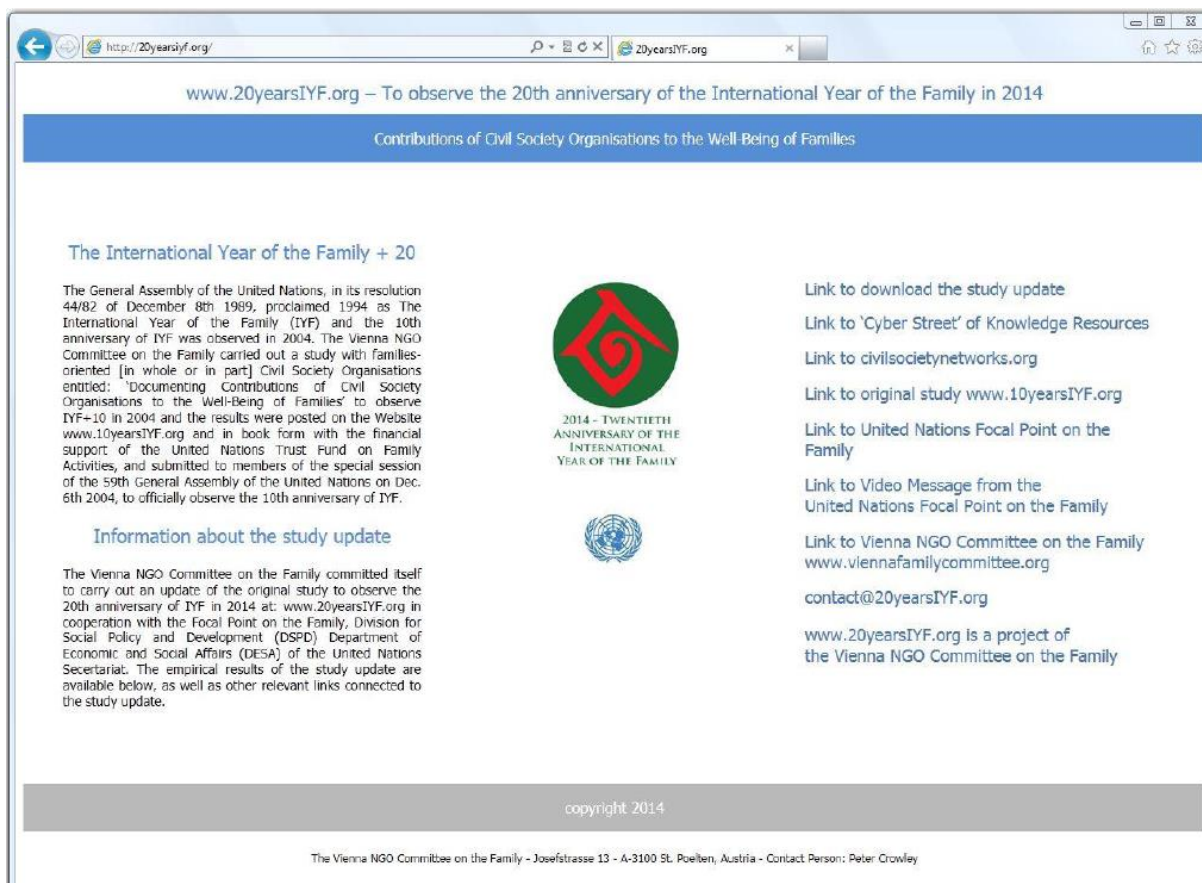
The United Nations Secretary General referred to the above publication in his Report to the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly (A/59/176, 2004 [www.un.org/59/documentation/list1.html](http://www.un.org/59/documentation/list1.html) ). The contents of the book, which also includes a comparative perspective of international, national, and local family-oriented civil society organisations enhancing social justice, are also available above at: [www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org)

(c) [www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://www.civilsocietynetworks.org) [since 2004]



Visitors to this Website:  
[www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://www.civilsocietynetworks.org)  
 2010 2.770  
 2014 5.945

(d) [www.20yearsIYF.org](http://www.20yearsIYF.org) [since 2014]



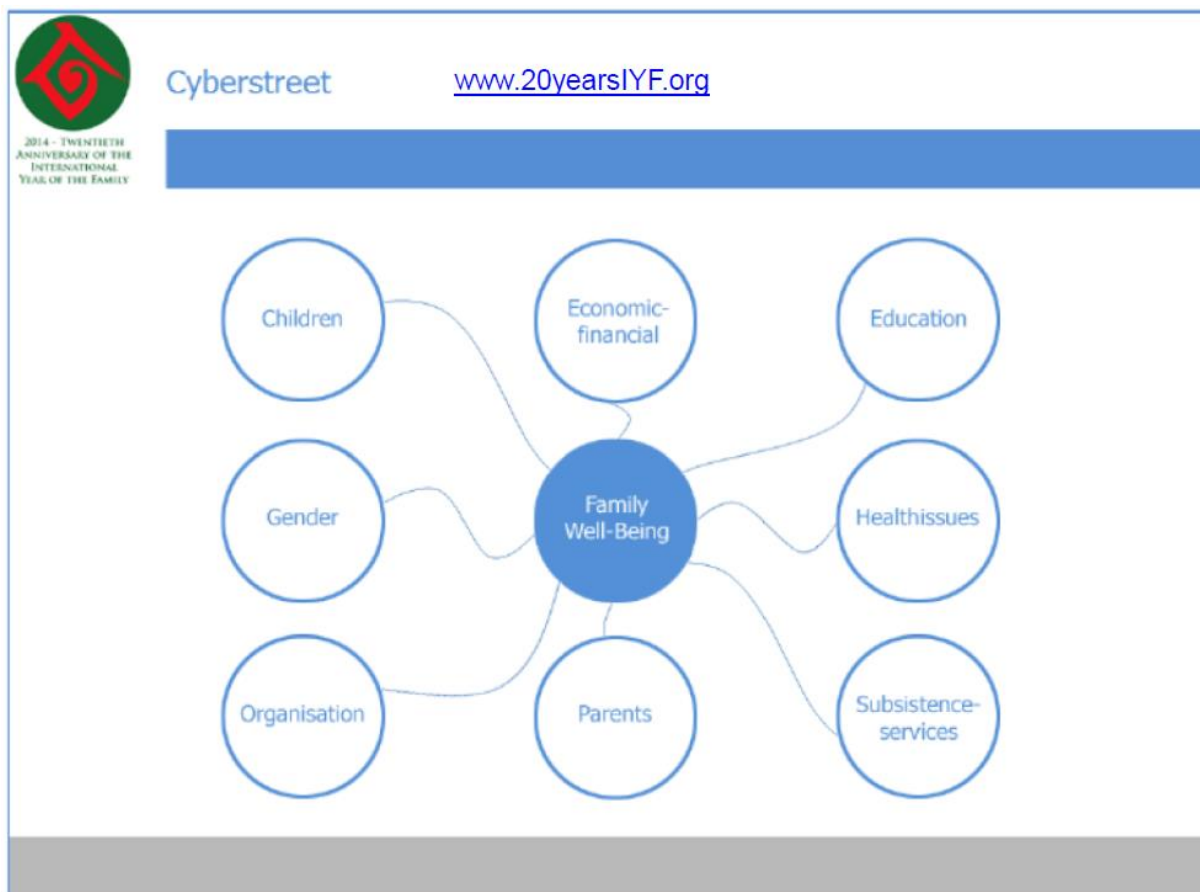
Visitors to this Website:  
[www.20yearsIYF.org](http://www.20yearsIYF.org)  
2014 7.743

The Committee carried out, in cooperation with the Focal Point on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, (DSPD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat an update of the above mentioned study entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisation to the Well-Being of Families.' The author of the study update, Dr. Peter Crowley, Secretary of the Committee, presented the results of the study update at a panel discussion on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the United Nations in New York, to observe the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family 2014 (IYF+20). A video of the panel, as well as the full 80 page report of the study update is available on the United Nations website at:

<http://undesadspd.org/Family/InternationalObservances/InternationalDayofFamilies/2014.aspx>

To facilitate the implementation of the update of the website: [www.20yearsIYF.org](http://www.20yearsIYF.org) was set up to gather data entered by the participating CSOs in the study-update, from seventeen countries in four continents.

This website further offers a knowledge resource facility of family issues for visitors to the website, by creating a so-called 'Cyber Street' of websites on families-oriented CSOs which deal with eight categories relevant for families: 'Children; Economic-Financial; Education; Gender; Health Issues; Organisation; Parents and Subsistence-Services.' This website also includes a series of links, inter alia, to the United Nations Focal Point on the Family.



Total Number of Visitors to all three websites maintained by the Committee:  
2010 30.123

Total Number of Visitors to all four websites:  
2014 110.801

**Thirty Years Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**  
1 June 2015–United Nations Vienna International Centre

Irina Pállfy-Daun-Seiler

**MMM** tackles the situation of women and the family from the specific angle of mothers. Because of this approach, when addressing the care work issue, we talk about “family” care work.

Women and men’s participation in the labour market and therefore accessibility to economic resources is unequal for structural and social reasons. One main reason for that is motherhood.

Studies show that **mothers more than fathers** put their family responsibilities before their work, taking career breaks, part time jobs or more informal jobs, or stop paid work altogether for family reasons.

That choice hinders their careers, their financial income, their future financial security and also their social recognition. These negative consequences have a name: “the **motherhood penalty**”. And it also has negative implications for the family, increasing the risk of mothers’ and child poverty

Measures encouraging fathers to take more responsibilities in family life are essential, and we strongly support them; but until an equal share is reached we have to be aware of the **reality** of mothers and of what they **want**.

A survey conducted by MMM in 16 European countries with close to 12,000 respondents showed that what mothers wanted was very similar all over Europe:

- They want **recognition for the importance of the mothers’ role** as contributing to the wellbeing of their children and their family **but also to the future of society**.
- A majority of them wanted more **time with their children**. They want to be active on the labour market AND also be able to care for their family, **giving priority to one or the other depending on the age and number of children**.
- Mothers want real **choices** between taking care of their children themselves or being active on the labour market.

In **developing countries, in addition to family care**, women’s unpaid work often has to compensate for the **lack of public infrastructures and services**, notably in the fields of safe water and sanitation, energy, transportation and ICT. In such situations, the resulting “**time poverty**” can be particularly high, and by robbing women of precious time to engage in income generating activities, it **perpetuates economic poverty**.

Motherhood should not be considered as an obstacle but as a **reality that the labour market has to adapt to**, not only as a matter of gender equality but also for the wellbeing of families, communities and societies as a whole.


## What are MMM recommendations?

As “time poverty” is a central issue for most women around the world, infrastructure development, and policies to reconcile family and work, should address this issue of time. I will talk briefly about **2 topics**:

**TIME TO WORK, TIME TO CARE**

➔ **Life cycle approach:** discontinuous career paths for both mothers and fathers

- Facilitate **re-entry** into labour market
  - **Lifelong learning**
  - **Recognition of skills** acquired in unpaid family care work
- Adapt regulatory frameworks to enable **quality flexible work**
- Adapt **pension schemes**



Mouvement Mondial des Mères | Make Mothers Matter

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MMM suggests a **life cycle approach** allowing **women and men** to pursue **discontinuous career paths**, leaving the labour market partially or completely for a definite period of time to care for and educate their children.

How could such a new vision of professional life be possible?

### 1. By facilitating the re-entry into the labour market through:

- Easier access to **lifelong learning** providing qualifications after career breaks.
- The **recognition of skills** acquired and developed while performing unpaid family care work.




2. **By adapting the regulatory framework** to eliminate discrimination and thus rehabilitate flexible work for men and women. In the Netherlands where there is a favourable framework, 50% of the workforce works part time, including men, resulting in 69.9% female employment.<sup>1</sup>
3. **By adapting pension schemes** to introduce **care credits** or similar systems to compensate for unpaid family care work periods. These periods should be recognized as contributive as it already is the case in several EU member states.<sup>2</sup>


This can be considered as a reallocation of the resources spent today on stress and burn-out situations.

**TIME USE SURVEYS**

- Recognize the value of **unpaid family care work**
- Need to conduct **accurate time surveys**
- Measure its **monetary value**
  - to make it visible: recognition
  - to be taken into account by policy makers



Mouvement Mondial des Mères



Make Mothers Matter

7

Although women's labour participation has increased, there has not been a parallel lightening in responsibility of unpaid family care work. This has led to women working double shifts, which is a strain on their health, children and family, generating stress-related and burnout situations.

<sup>1</sup> For 2013; according to Eurostat. See [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Employment\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Employment_statistics)  
See also the article on the Economist: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/05/economist-explains-12>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/pension-crediting-for-caregivers-policies-in-finland-france-germany-sweden-the-united-kingdom-canada-and-japan>

We ask for **accurate and regular time use surveys** measuring and differentiating unpaid activities. There are time use surveys showing that stay-at-home mothers spend less time with their children than women working outside their home! That is because respondents can report only one primary activity, ignoring the fact that care could be a simultaneous activity.

Time use surveys are necessary to give a **monetary value** to unpaid family care work that will show its importance to support the paid economy. A recent UN Report<sup>3</sup> says that estimates on **unpaid care work** would constitute **between 10 and 50% of the GDP**, if it were assigned a monetary value.

Accurate time use data and studies will **make unpaid family care work accounted for**, thus contributing to the recognition that mothers have been asking for. When measured, unpaid family care work could also be taken into account by policy makers, especially when developing public infrastructures and services to reduce and redistribute this work.

Today mothers' exhaustion, stress, single motherhood, increased mothers' and child poverty are part of family life in many countries around the world. It is a societal challenge that needs to be addressed.

*“OECD countries need to find an optimal balance between preparing families for life in the labour market and preparing the labour market for the lives of families”*

[mmmi@makemothersmatter.org](mailto:mmmi@makemothersmatter.org)  
[www.makemothersmatter.org](http://www.makemothersmatter.org)



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<sup>3</sup> October 2013 Report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda

MMM fully supports what OECD said it in the report, *Doing Better for Families*, 2011: ***“OECD countries need to find an optimal balance between preparing families for life in the labour market and preparing the labour market for the lives of families...”***

This would integrate the critical importance of time in the lives of families and recognize the contribution of families to the societies in which they live.

Thank you.

## Impressum

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