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Combining work and family life: experience from the UK and Netherlands

Contents

Page 1 - The Interim Report.

Page 1 – We have moved!

Page 2 – Events

Page 2 – Netherlands' side of the research.

Page 2 – International one day conference: information.

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Interim report

The interim report was finalised and disseminated before Christmas. The report presents preliminary findings from our ESF Objective 3 Project Combining Work and Family Life: Removing the Barriers to Women's Progression. It is based on the analysis of 21 in-depth interviews with women working different in sectors, both full-time and part-time. It highlights that flexibility is actually relatively widespread, although this varies at different levels and between sectors. This report shows examples of flexible positive working arrangements; however, the data also highlights conflicts of work and care. Evidence of such conflicts are demonstrated at all levels and modes of working and highlights how a variety of factors both inside and outside the workplace can affect work-life balance.

We have moved!

The ESF project and team have changed locations. The School of Social Science at Liverpool John Moores University moved location during the summer months and of course the ESF project moved with them. We are now located in the Clarence Street building.



Our new address:

Combining Work and Family Life: Removing the Barriers to Women's Progression.

Liverpool John Moores University
School of Social Science
Clarence Street
Liverpool
L3 5UG

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Events

Planning days

The ESF research teams have taken part in two planning days. The first was held in Blackburn House in Liverpool on the 16th September 2005. The team took the opportunity to discuss and finalise the International conference to be held in May. Louise Wattis also utilised the time to feedback on progress on the Interim Report, and the findings so far. Dutch researchers Mara Yerkes and Manuela Hernandez travelled from the Netherlands for the planning day. They reported to the rest of the ESF team about the findings from interviews conducted in the Netherlands.

In October the ESF team travelled to the Netherlands for another planning day at the School of European Studies, in The Hague. The final report was discussed as well as the Dutch researchers feeding back on research and focus groups to be held in the 2006.

Netherlands side of the research

The research team ran a seminar - *Hanging in the balance? Balancing work and family life in the Netherlands* at the Hague School of European Studies on Wednesday October 26th 2005. The seminar was arranged to discuss the preliminary results of the research project. It also provided an opportunity for interested parties to find out about the project, as well as providing a forum for working mums in the Netherlands to be involved in discussion:

- Do childcare and leave arrangement policies facilitate or hinder women's employment and career progression in the Netherlands?
- Do flexible working hours policies increase women's choices for balancing paid work and family life in the Netherlands?
- What are the consequences of these policies for women's emancipation in the Netherlands?



Free International One-Day Conference.

Swings and Roundabouts: Work, Childcare and Women's Career Progression.

Wednesday 24th May 2006,
Holiday Inn, Liverpool

Speakers now confirmed:

Sandra Gidley MP
Ross Henry (UNISON)
**Prof. Jane Lewis (London School
of Economics)**
**Prof. Janneke Plantenga
(University of Utrecht and
Economics)**
**Dr. Tracy Warren (Newcastle
University)**
**Prof. Sue Yeandle (Sheffield
Hallam University)**

Please email for further details:
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Or visit our website:
<http://cwis.livjm.ac.uk/SOC/newESF/index.htm>