

RECWOWE is a Network of Excellence (NoE) of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) on 'Reconciling Work and Welfare in Europe'.

Website: <http://recwowe.eu/>

Start Date: October 2006.

Duration: 5 years.

EC Contribution: 4.000.000€

30 research partners (19 universities and 11 other institutions), 180 researchers and 80 PhD students from 17 countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and The United Kingdom.

Partners:

P01 - Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange Guépin-Nantes

P02 - Sciences-PO Paris

P03 - University of Stirling

P04 - Institut des Hautes Études en Administration Publique

P05 - London School of Economics and Political Science

P06 - University of Utrecht

P07 - University of Oviedo

P08 - Institute for Research in Economics and Business Administration

P09 - University of Berne

P10 - Tilburg University

P11 - Observatoire social européen

P12 - National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health

P13 - Université Catholique de Louvain la Neuve

P14 - Masaryk University Brno

P15 - University of Hamburg

P16 - University of Bremen

P17 - Aalborg University

P18 - Danish Institute for Social Research

P19 - University of Tampere

P20 - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

P21 - Poleis, Bocconi University

P22 - Warsaw School of Economics

P23 - University of Stockholm

P24 - University of Ljubljana

P25 - Central European University

P26 - University of Manchester

P27 - Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

P28 - Institute for Future Studies

P29 - University of Edinburgh

P30 - University of Southern Denmark

Coordinator institution: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange Guépin-Nantes (France)

Project summary

The paramount objective of RECWOWE is to create a European research network capable of overcoming the fragmentation of existing research on questions of work and welfare in Europe.

RECWOWE integrates existing research activities on the various tensions that characterize the relationships between work and welfare. The ultimate aim is the constitution of a 'virtual institute' promoting the research excellence required in identifying and understanding the multiple tensions between work and welfare, as well as strategies for managing or resolving them.

RECWOWE is aimed at encouraging innovative research in the fields of labour market and social protection research. The common focus on tensions gives rise to perspectives and questions for research that are currently lost in the 'void' between existing research domains and academic disciplines. The activity of the network promotes new institutional and individual partnership, based on novel combinations of disciplinary and geographical expertise.

RECWOWE seeks to effectively share the new knowledge that is built up through its activities. It organises specific training schemes for students and professionals. It centralises and publicises existing and new sources of data on work and welfare, and disseminates its analyses and findings through a particular structure.

Activities:

Action 01: Tensions between flexibility and security. G. Bonoli & J. Clasen

Action 02: Reconciling Family and Employment. B. Hobson & T. Knijn

Objectives: The aim is to develop indicators for evaluating work life balance practices, policies and norms at the workplace level, at the state level, as well as guidelines and benchmarks at the EU level. Researchers aim to develop an instrument for implementing a capabilities approach on the household level that brings together individual agencies to achieve a better-balanced work life.

Data Collection: Data collection involves a three tier approach, elaborated in close cooperation with the EDACwowe: (i) policy mapping of both national and EU level social policies and policy studies on the reconciliation of work and family life from the perspective of its implications for promoting employability, welfare and gender-equality; (ii) collating indicators at the firm-level on the take-up rates of flexible hours within the context of workplace obstacles and barriers that parents face in securing individual flexible working hours arrangements; (iii) household survey data on the strategies of individuals to create a work-life balance. Once gathered and harmonised, these data are made accessible through the EDACwowe's data bank website.

Integrating Activities: These activities create dialogue across current research networks on the three levels. It brings together experts (coordinators and participants) involved in large-scale projects that confront the tensions between welfare and work and its impact at the household/family level. The intra-strand workshops endeavour to create merge these research portfolios and foster new joint activities, as well as laying the basis for durable integration through the development of a family, work and welfare module for a Masters programme in the Bologna framework.

IS-HAS team members participated in the following (Action 02 related) tasks:

- (i) T02.11/12 Tensions between rising expectations of parenthood and capabilities and agency to achieve a work family balance (including a Pilot Capabilities Survey on WFB conducted in Stockholm and in Budapest) – Sz. Artner, J. Takács, T. P.Tóth, R. Vajda
- (ii) T02.13/23 Tensions between work and family life – J. Takács
- (iii) T02.22 Fertility, female employment and reconciliation policies – J. Takács, O. Tóth

Action 03: Quality and Quantity of Job. A. Guillen & S. Drobnic

Action 04: Toward Employment – Friendly Welfare State. B. Palier & J. Kvist

Action 05: European Data Centre for Work and Welfare (EDACwowe). T. Friedberg & W. Van Oorshot

Action 06-07: Cross-strand integration of ongoing research activities and new joint research activities (TRANSwowe). D. Bouget, J. Lewis & P. Vielle

IS-HAS team members participated in the following (Action 06-07 related) tasks:
Tasks on Immigrants and ethnic minorities between labour and welfare within WP07, including T01.22 Employers' recruitment decisions – V. Messing, K. Tardos

Action 08: Plenary Conferences. D. Bouget & E. Fratzak

Action 09-11: Publication, Dissemination and Dialogue Centre (PUDIACwowe) B. Palier, & D.Clegg

Action 10: Training activities Centre (TACwowe) J. Clasen & A. Duman

Action 12: Management activities. D. Bouget