

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECE Work Session on Gender Statistics
(Geneva, Switzerland, 23-25 September 2002)

Key discussion points for topic IV

*Balancing work and family responsibilities in different life-cycle positions
(Time Use, Labour Force and other surveys as relevant monitoring vehicles)¹*

- **Reasons for analysing** the balance of work and family responsibilities by gender?
 - Although *employment rates* of women increased during the last decades, their labour force participation is still lower than men's, inequalities in the labour market still exist – occupational segregation by gender, percentage of women and men in leading positions unequal, part-time employment still a domain of women, lower income of women even if equal qualifications etc.
 - Women's share of *unpaid work* hours still considerable higher than men's. They are – even if they are full-time employed – responsible for household chores, caring for children and elder relatives etc. Family responsibilities as main reasons of women for interrupting their occupational career.

- **Measurement:**
 - How can the balance of work and family responsibilities be *measured*?
 - Which information (of household members) is necessary to study this topic?
 - *Socio-demographic variables*: age, household type, presence and age of children, region, education, etc.;
 - *Labour market characteristics*: labour market status, contractual/actual working hours, atypical work arrangements (as telework), flexible working times, etc.;
 - Division of labour concerning *unpaid work* in the domestic sector;
 - Consideration of *subjective measures* of perception of time and well being too (satisfaction/dissatisfaction with work/family balance over the life course);
 - *Interruption* of occupational career: parental leave, reintegration into labour market after parental leave;
 - Usage of *public child care*;

¹ Prepared by Beatrix Wiedenhofer-Galik

- **Data Sources:**
 - Which sources *could be used* to get this information?
 - In particular: *Time Use Surveys*:
 - How many statistical offices carried out a Time Use Survey recently or are planning to do it in near future?
 - *Labour Force Surveys*:
 - Varying ad-hoc-modules (f.e. on child care in 2005)
 - *Linkage* of various sources (surveys; registers) possible (using common key variables)?
 - *Longitudinal Surveys*?

- How to measure **policy implications**?
 - Measuring of family and gender policy reforms (concerning parental leave, child care institutions etc.) by time-series;
 - National legal basis should be known in case of *international comparisons* (f.e. regarding to parental leave);