

This is the first newsletter of FamiliesAndSocieties, a large-scale European research project investigating the diversity of family forms, relationships and life courses in Europe in relation to policies.

Our Topics

1. Interview with Livia Sz. Oláh, Project Coordinator for FamiliesAndSocieties & Associate Professor at the Stockholm University Demography Unit (SUDA)
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1. “Family change is not over” – an interview with Livia Sz. Oláh about the launch of the FamiliesAndSocieties project

In Europe, family configurations and life courses are becoming more and more complex. The FamiliesAndSocieties project has been designed to generate comparative, interdisciplinary, in-depth and scientifically grounded knowledge about these family changes. The project coordinator Livia Sz. Oláh explains in detail how research and dissemination activities will work. [More](#)

2. Website Launch

On June 25, the FamiliesAndSocieties consortium has launched its website www.familiesandsocieties.eu. The website provides information about the main objectives of the project and its conceptual framework, the consortium and the management structure, publications and other project-related news. The website also offers the possibility for the interested public to sign up for regular update on the project.

3. Research topics

The project’s research activities encompasses a wide range of topics:

Diverse family configurations – Life goals and life course transitions	Read more on work package 2
The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies	Read more on work package 3
The changing role of children and societal implications: Assisted reproduction, late fertility and childlessness	Read more on work package 4

Research on family dynamics and inequalities in children's life chances	Read more on work package 5
Childcare arrangements: determinants and consequences	Read more on work package 6
Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities	Read more on work package 7
New Europeans – Social Inclusion of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Families	Read more on work package 8
Policies and diversity over the life course	Read more on work package 9
Foresight activities	Read more on work package 10
Synthesis and policy implications	Read more on work package 11

Read here for more information on [work package co-leaders and contact details](#).

1. Research News

Divorce can infringe the life chances of children from high income and highly educated parents more measurably than those from less well-off families. Timing is important when measuring the impact of divorce on education. The closer divorce occurs to critical turning points in a child's educational trajectory, the greater the effect.

These and other findings have been presented at a *FamiliesAndSocieties* workshop, organised by [Fabrizio Bernardi](#), [European University Institute](#), and [Juho Härkönen](#), [Stockholm University](#) (co-leaders of the [work package 5 - Research on family dynamics and inequalities in children's life chances](#)). [More](#)

Intergenerational linkages in families are evident in the emotional, financial, practical, and moral reliance on and responsibility that adult children and ageing parents have for one another. It is important to recognize that intergenerational linkages might vary across societies. How to grasp this variation was the topic of a recent *FamiliesAndSocieties* symposium entitled "How policy, economic and cultural contexts shape intergenerational linkages in families".

The symposium was organized by [Pearl A. Dykstra](#), [Erasmus University Rotterdam](#) (co-leader of [work package 7 - Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities](#)) and took place at the 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, South Korea.

Researchers from the four institutes involved in work package 7 ([Erasmus University Rotterdam](#) (Netherlands), [Spanish National Research Council](#) (Spain), [Babeş-Bolyai University](#) (Romania) and [Warsaw School of Economics](#) (Poland)) presented preliminary results of their research. They highlighted various aspects of intergenerational linkages, such as the ways in which public policies structure autonomy versus dependence of older and younger family members, perceived responsibilities of the young towards the old, the interplay between public and family care for frail older adults, and generational squeezes.

Imprint

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Editors: Dr. Andreas Edel (V.i.S.d.P), Dr. Daniela Vono de Vilhena

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Contact: press@population-europe.eu

FamiliesAndSocieties (www.familiesandsocieties.eu) is a major European research project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme since February 2013. It has the aim to investigate the diversity of family forms, relationships and life courses in Europe, to assess the compatibility of existing policies with these changes, and to contribute to evidence-based policy-making. The consortium brings together 25 leading universities and research institutes in 15 European countries and three transnational civil society organizations.