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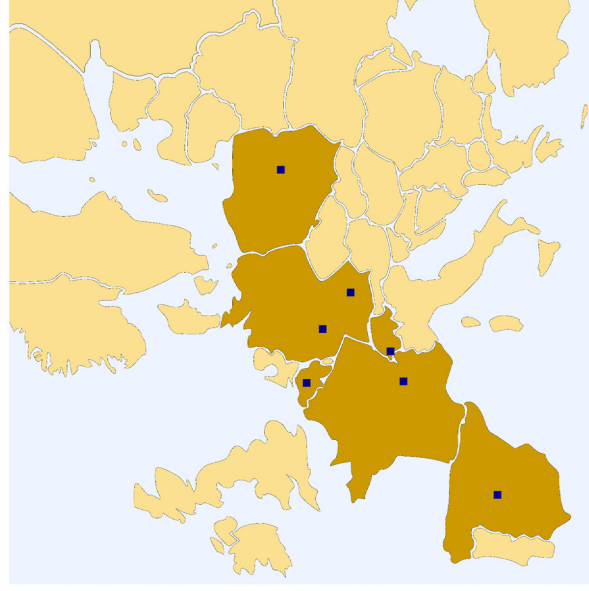
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The full list of participating researchers is available on the project website.



Summary

The project studies job-related spatial mobility, its causes, its obstacles, and its interaction with job career and with the private sphere. This includes partnership and family development, social integration, and the subjective well-being. In each of the six participating countries, a survey is carried out, collecting for the first time representative data on job mobilities.

Find further information on our website:

<http://www.jobmob-and-families.eu>

Duration

31 months, February 2006 to August 2008

Funding

by the European Commission
in the Sixth Framework Programme
Budget: 1,277,350 Euro

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Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe

Modern Mobile Living and its Relation to Quality of Life

An interdisciplinary international comparative social sciences research project



Funded by the European Commission in the Sixth Framework Programme priority "Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society"
Contract No. CIT5-CT-2005-028349



www.jobmob-and-families.eu

Aims

This project seeks to improve European work-life balance under conditions of contemporary mobility requirements by gathering and disseminating information for individuals, employers, and policy makers regarding job-related spatial mobility. The aims are to:

- improve our understanding of structural and cultural conditions under which spatial mobility is realised,
- enhance individual competencies at managing mobile lifestyle demands,
- develop and strengthen political and economic strategies to reduce the strains caused by spatial job mobility.

The main outcomes of the project will be available through six national reports and in one comparative report.

Main Research Areas

The questions of interest cover three main research areas:

Phenomenology: Describing the spread of mobility requirements, the affected social groups, and realised job mobilities, in all their forms and varieties, in cross-national perspective.

Explanation: Understanding decision processes regarding job mobility, identifying individual motivations and restraints, triggers and barriers to becoming mobile.

Consequences: Identifying the consequences of mobile living under various conditions: the advantages and strains, impacts on job career, family development, individual well-being, and quality of life.

Subject

The subject of the study is **spatial mobility for occupational reasons**. Of special interest are all manifestations of job mobility over a relatively long distance. These may be ... in forms of **singular events** like ...

- relocating or migrating for job-reasons or in forms of **recurring mobility** like ...
- daily long-distance commuting to work,
- long-distance relationship for job reasons,
- staying often over-night away from home (seasonal workers, weekly commuters, people with varying work places, etc.).

Theoretical Background

Using a subjectively expected utility approach, the study assumes that individuals react to occupational mobility demands, following own needs, which interact with subjective perceptions and priorities. They consider conditions on the macro, meso, and micro level. This framework is inspired by the concept of motility.

Macro level: Individuals take structural conditions into account, such as access to the transportation infrastructure or labour market conditions, as well as mobility cultures.

Meso level: Individuals consider characteristics of their social network, work place, or town (quality of life, local labour market, local sub-culture, etc.).

Micro level: Individuals consider their skills and life situation (job, family, etc.) and are influenced by their socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, etc.).

Between these phenomena and job mobility, reciprocal interactions are assumed. The understanding of these interdependencies is enriched with stress theories and theories of quality of life.

Method

The project collects quantitative, representative, and comparable data for the six participating countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland) in a fully standardised cross-sectional survey. The universe is defined as the residential population, aged between 25 and 54 years. The interviews are carried out by survey institutes in spring 2007 as telephone interviews (CATI), with the exception of Poland where face-to-face interviews are conducted.

The survey consists of two samples:

The first Sample (S1) ...

collects data on mobile and immobile people. It allows representative statistics regarding all variables. Analyses are possible also on those who refused to become mobile or never were exposed to mobility demands.

The intended sample size is n=5300.

The second Sample (S2) ...

is conducted with mobile persons only, to get a sufficient number of cases for analyses on the different forms of mobility. The interviewees are selected with screening interviews. Within S2, which is a fully randomised sample for mobiles, the same questionnaire is used as in S1.

The intended sample size is n=2000.

Dissemination

The outcomes and implications of the project will be discussed at an international conference in Brussels in summer 2008.