

## *Foreword*

Across OECD countries, the smallest gender gaps in time spent on household chores and caring are associated with the smallest gender gaps in employment rates. Time spent at home with the family affects time spent at work and vice versa. The traditional male-breadwinner model no longer reflects an efficient resource allocation in the labour market nor the aspirations of many fathers and mothers. Indeed, many fathers nowadays would like to have more time to spend with their children and many mothers would like to have more time to pursue their labour market aspirations and potentials.

German family policy and attitudes among Germans towards organising work and family life have changed considerably over the past 15 years, and it is timely to take stock of these changes also from an international perspective. This review outlines the advantages of a balanced sharing of work and family life, and provides an assessment of the situation in Germany and illustrates good policy practice and experience with examples from other OECD countries.

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