

Report on Existing Data Sources and Objective and Subjective Indicators

Deliverable 1.2 – February 2007

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Universität Hamburg

Quality is an innovative, quantitative and qualitative research project that aims to examine how, in an era of major change, European citizens living in different national welfare state regimes evaluate the quality of their lives. The project will analyse international comparative data on the social well-being of citizens and collect new data on social quality in European workplaces in eight strategically selected partner countries: **UK, Finland, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Hungary and a candidate country for EU enlargement, Bulgaria.**

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Introduction

This report builds on the extensive literature review in which theoretical concepts of quality of life and quality of work have been examined (see Deliverable 1.1.: Beham, Drobnič, and Verwiebe 2006). A substantive diversity in theoretical approaches is also reflected in the operationalization of the concepts. The aim of this report is to provide an overview of existing data sources and measures used to assess the quality of life and work, and to examine some basic indicators for the countries participating in the QUALITY project.

A wide array of surveys that may be relevant for the quality of life and work has been conducted by international organizations, such as the European Union, the OECD, the ILO, or networks of researchers and social scientist, such as those that compiled the World Value Survey. While some of these studies are explicitly designed to assess the quality of life or work across countries (e.g. European Quality of Life Survey, European Working Conditions Survey), others are aimed at broader issues and constructs, and thus only tap into certain aspects of quality of life and work (e.g. the World Value Survey, Eurobarometer). In order to select the datasets most suitable to the research objectives of the QUALITY project, we specified a number of selection criteria and examined available data sources according to these criteria. A selection of data sources was further necessary because an examination of all secondary data sources that are currently available would be outside the scope of this project.

There is an ongoing debate in the field about how to best measure quality of life and quality of work, and whether to rely on objective measures of external conditions or on subjective evaluations of individuals (for a more detailed review of this discussion and the advantages and disadvantages of both sets of indicators see Beham, Drobnič, and Verwiebe 2006). Only recently scholars have called for a complementary use of both types of indicators, but the field still lacks a clear distinction between objective and subjective indicators. This paper is largely based on a definition offered by Allardt (1993). According to his definition, objective indicators assess factual conditions and overt behavior (e.g. standard of living, physical health, personal income), whereas subjective indicators are comprised of measurement of attitudes (e.g. satisfaction, happiness).

In the following chapters, we first present the selection criteria and give a broad overview of available data sets. We then briefly describe the secondary data sources that best fit our selection criteria. Further, we identify various objective and subjective indicators of quality of life and work in the selected data sets, which are relevant for the secondary data analysis to be conducted later in the QUALITY project. Graphs with frequency distributions and simple descriptive statistics for the most important variables are included throughout this report to further illustrate the measurement instruments. We conclude each chapter with a short discussion of limitation of the dataset for data analysis and academic writing.

Overview of Secondary Data Sources

One further step in the QUALITY research project (Deliverable 1.3) will be a comparative cross-national analysis of quality of life in the participating countries. Hence, at this stage, our aim is to identify secondary data sources which contain some measures of quality of life, such as overall life conditions or happiness, as well as objective and subjective indicators in selected life domains. In particular, we are interested in the impact of work on subjective well-being and family/personal life. Thus, data that include measures on working conditions, household and family situation, satisfaction with work and family/personal life, health and well-being need to be identified.

Measures of overall life satisfaction, domain satisfaction (e.g. work, family, health), and happiness do not differ significantly across studies. They are mainly comprised of a single-item question on a scale from 1-10, or 1-7, that has been replicated in various surveys. Hence, we also need to check whether the data sources offer other relevant variables in addition to the commonly used satisfaction measures.

Besides these ‘content-based’ criteria, country coverage and data availability are important selection criteria. Not all secondary datasets include data for the eight participating countries. Hungary and Bulgaria, in particular, are often not included in data sets conducted by the European Union before they joined the community. Accordingly, we will only analyze data sets that include all eight countries of interest and are expected to be available by the mid-2007. The final report on the results of the secondary data analysis is due for submission to the European Commission in early 2008. As a rule of thumb, data sets are released for public (academic) research approximately two years after data collection (e.g., the data set of the 2005 European Working Conditions will be available in May 2007). Finally, we also need to take into account the year of data collection and the availability of time-series, because we are interested in recent developments as well as changes over time. Especially, working conditions have changed significantly over the last 10-15 years due technological advancements and the globalization processes. Table 1 provides an initial overview of potentially relevant data sets in terms of content, country coverage and data availability.

Questionnaire	Time series	Years	Data available for all countries	Relevance of content	
				QOL	QOW
European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)	NO	2003	2003	High	Medium
European Working Conditions Survey (ECWS)	YES	1990, 1995, 2000/01, 2005	2000/01, 2005	Low	High
World & European Value Survey (WVS/EVS)	YES	1981,1990,1995, 2000, 2005	1990, 2000	Medium	Low
European Social Survey (ESS)	YES	2002, 2004, 2006	Not available	Medium	Medium
International Social Survey Program (ISSP)	YES	1994, 2002	2002	Low	Low

Questionnaire	Time series	Years	Data available for all countries	Relevance of content	
				QOL	QOW
“Family and Changing Gender Roles” module International Social Survey Program (ISSP) “Work Orientations” module Eurobarometer (EB) European Community Household Panel (ECHP) & European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)	YES	1989,1997, 2005	Not available	Low	High
	YES	ALL	2000-2005	Low	XXX
	YES	1994-2001, 2004-2006	Not available	Low	Low

Table 1: Overview of Secondary Data Sources

The European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS), the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS), and the World Value and European Value Survey Series (WVS/EVS) seem to be the most relevant ones for the secondary data analysis in terms of content and country coverage. All participating countries are included in the most recent data releases. The content of either study has at least medium-to-High importance for quality of life and/or quality of work. In the following chapter, simple descriptive statistics on selected objective and subjective indicators are presented in order to provide further insights into these three data sets.

European Quality of Life Survey

General Information

In 2003, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions launched the European Quality of Life Survey (<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/areas/qualityoflife/eqls.htm>). The survey was carried out in the EU 15, the 10 acceding countries which became Member States in May 2004, and three candidate countries Bulgaria and Rumania (which joined the European Union in January 2007) as well as Turkey. Around 1,000 persons aged 18 or over were interviewed in each country, except for smaller countries such as Luxembourg or Estonia where around 600 interviews were conducted. The overall response rate was 58.4%. However, there was a large variation in national response rates, ranging from 30.3% in Spain to 91.2% in Germany. Table 2 provides an overview of the overall sample sizes of the countries participating in the Quality project and the share of people in paid employment. The secondary data analysis on the relationship between quality of work and life will be conducted on the sub-sample of individuals in paid employment.

Quality of Life Survey 2003	N total	N working
Germany	1052	409
The Netherlands	1050	592
Sweden	1000	561
Finland	997	468
United Kingdom	1012	424
Portugal	998	449
Hungary	1001	401
Bulgaria	1007	368

Table 2: Sample Size per Country

The EQLS explores both subjective and objective aspects of quality of life in major areas that shape living conditions and opportunities of individuals. The questionnaire covers eight key issues of quality of life:

- **Economic Situation**
 - Income distribution
 - Deprivation level
 - Perceived economic strain
- **Housing and local environment**
 - Tenure status
 - Housing conditions
 - Local environment
 - Satisfaction with accommodation
- **Employment, education and skills**
 - Employment
 - Job security
 - Job quality and characteristics

- Working hours
- Satisfaction with work
- Educational level
- Internet usage
- **Household structure and family relations**
 - Household composition
 - Responsibility for care and housework
 - Social support
 - Satisfaction with family life
- **Work-life balance**
 - Work-home interference
 - Time constraints
- **Health and health care**
 - State of health, longstanding illness and disabilities
 - Satisfaction with health
 - Access to health services
 - Quality of health and social services
- **Subjective well-being**
 - Overall life and domain satisfaction
 - Overall happiness
 - Expectations about the future; optimism
- **Perceived quality of society**
 - Tensions in society
 - Quality of education and pension systems
 - Confidence in pension and social benefit systems
 - Intergenerational conflict
 - Social capital

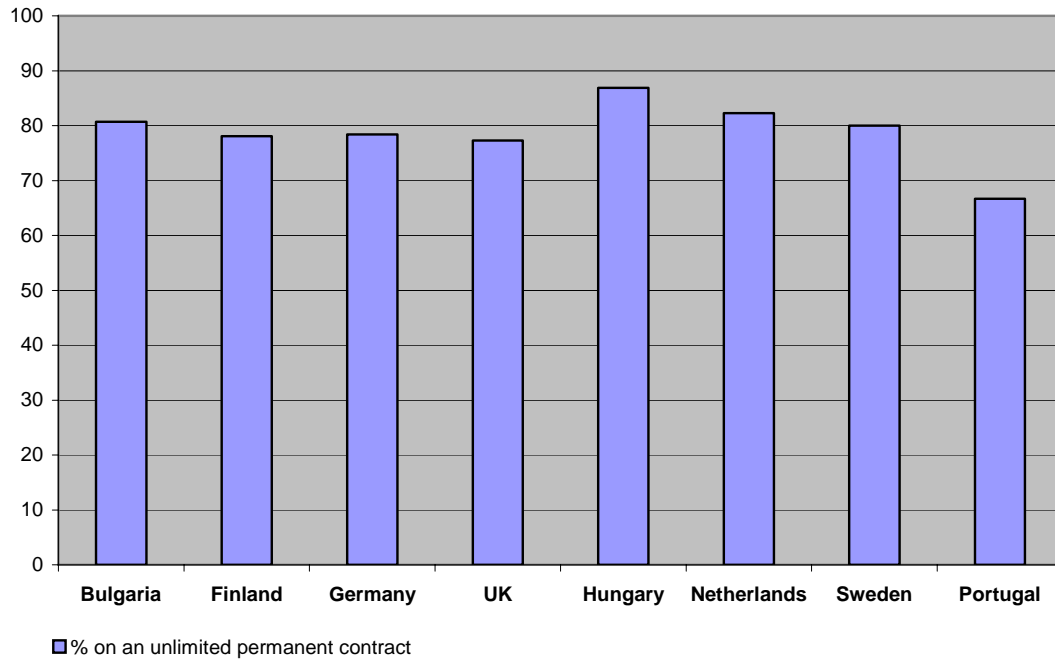
The 2003 dataset has been released approximately two years after data collection and can be accessed free of charge.

Selected Objective and Subjective Indicators

Job Insecurity

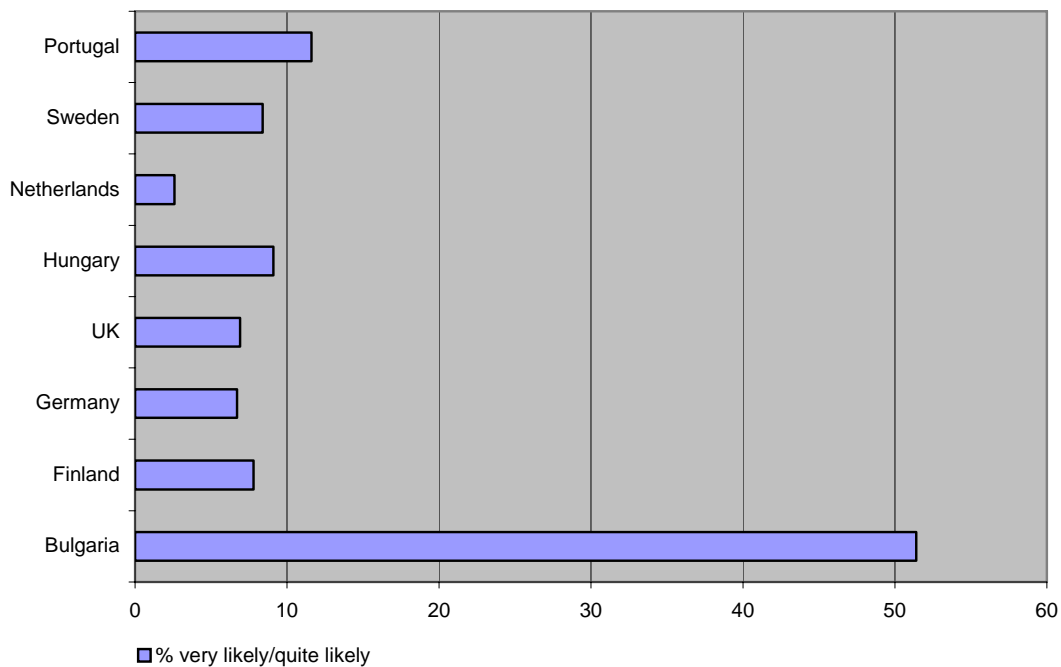
Job insecurity is assessed by two questions in the EQLS. One question asks participants to indicate the type of contract (unlimited permanent contract, fixed term contract, temporary employment agency contract, apprenticeship/other training scheme, or no written contract) they have with their organization.

Share of People Holding an Unlimited Permanent Contract



The second question measures perceived job insecurity with a single-item question on a 5-point scale (1 = very likely; 5 = very unlikely). Participants are asked to indicate how likely it is that they will lose their job in the next six months.

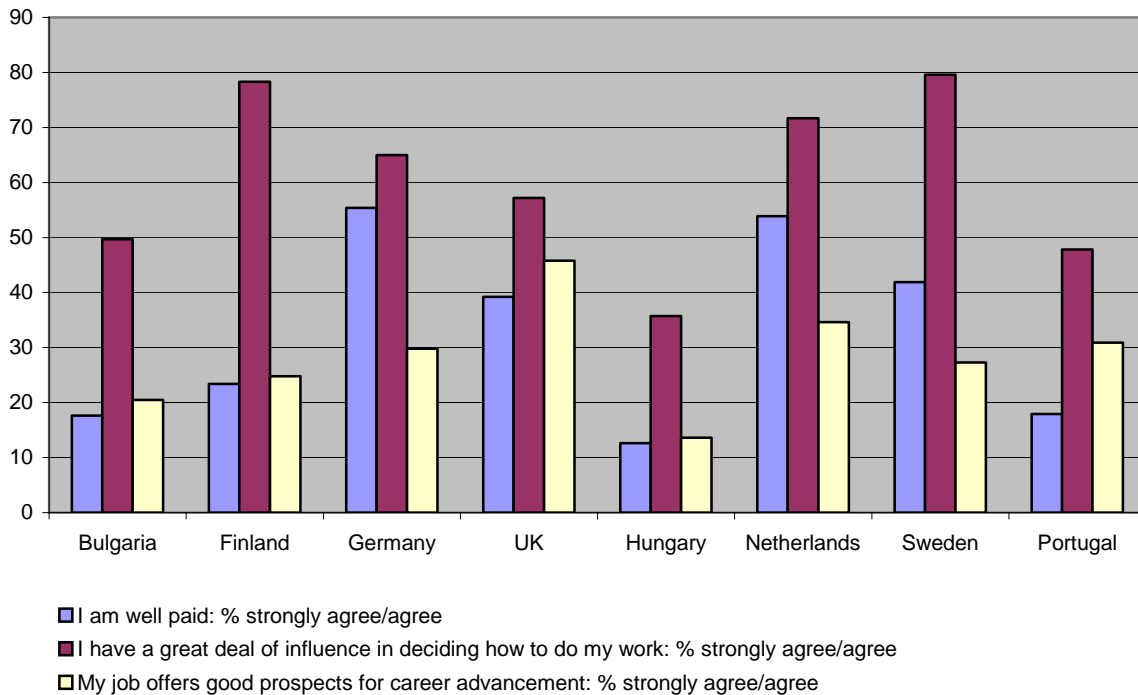
Perceived Risk of Losing Current Job in the Next 6 Months



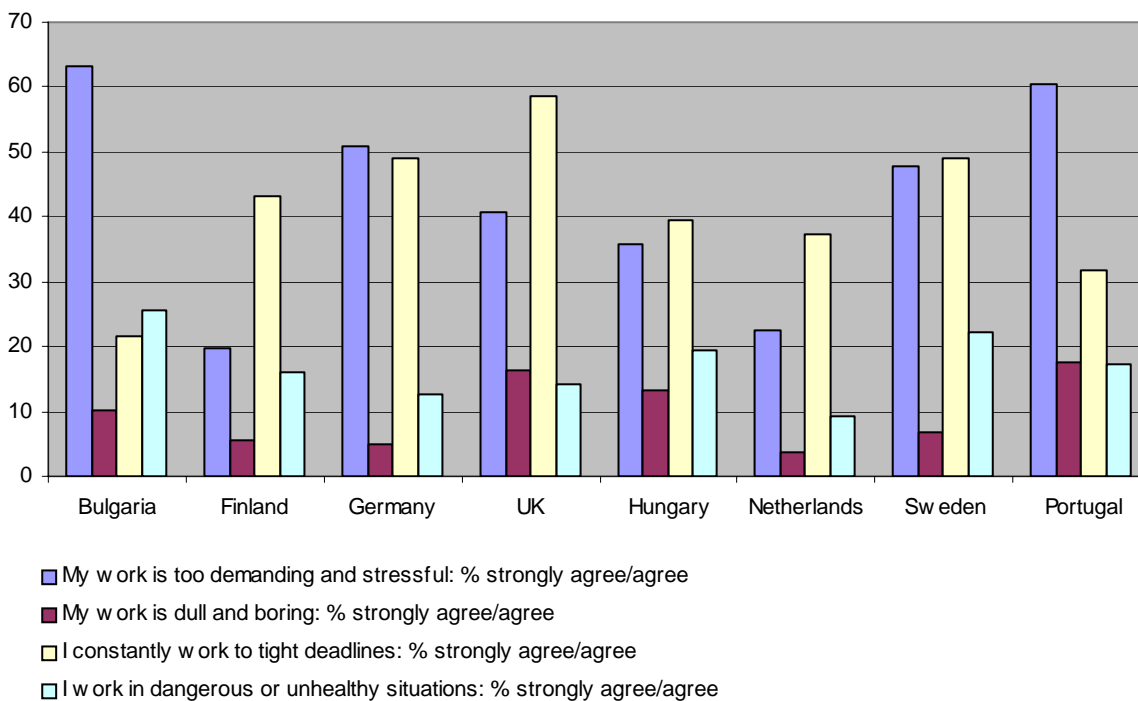
Job Quality

Job quality is measured with seven items on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = strongly agree; 5 = strongly disagree). Three items assess positive aspects of a job, while four items assess negative job characteristics.

Positive Job Characteristics

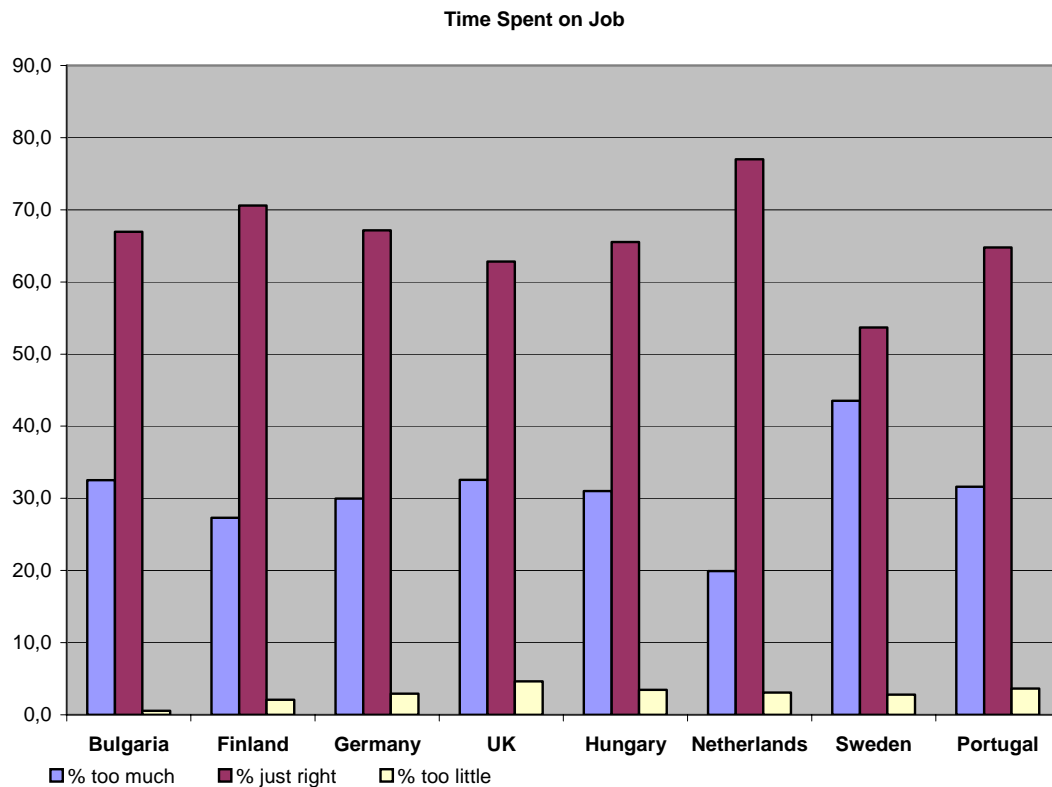


Negative Job Characteristics



Working Time

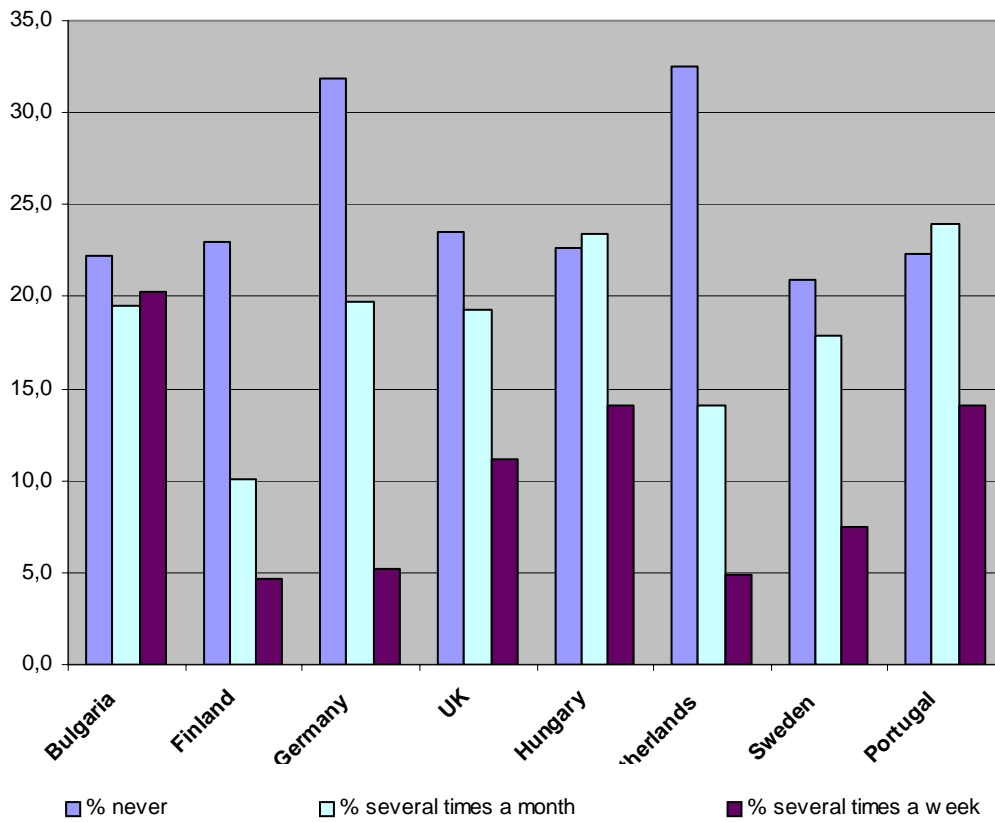
Working hours are assessed by asking participants to indicate how many hours per week they normally spend in their main job (including paid and unpaid overtime), and in their second job if they hold one. In addition, respondents are asked about perceived time constraints. They are asked to indicate whether they spend too little time, just the right amount of time, or too much time in different areas such as work, contact with family members, other social contacts, hobbies and interests, sleep, doing voluntary work or taking part in political activities.



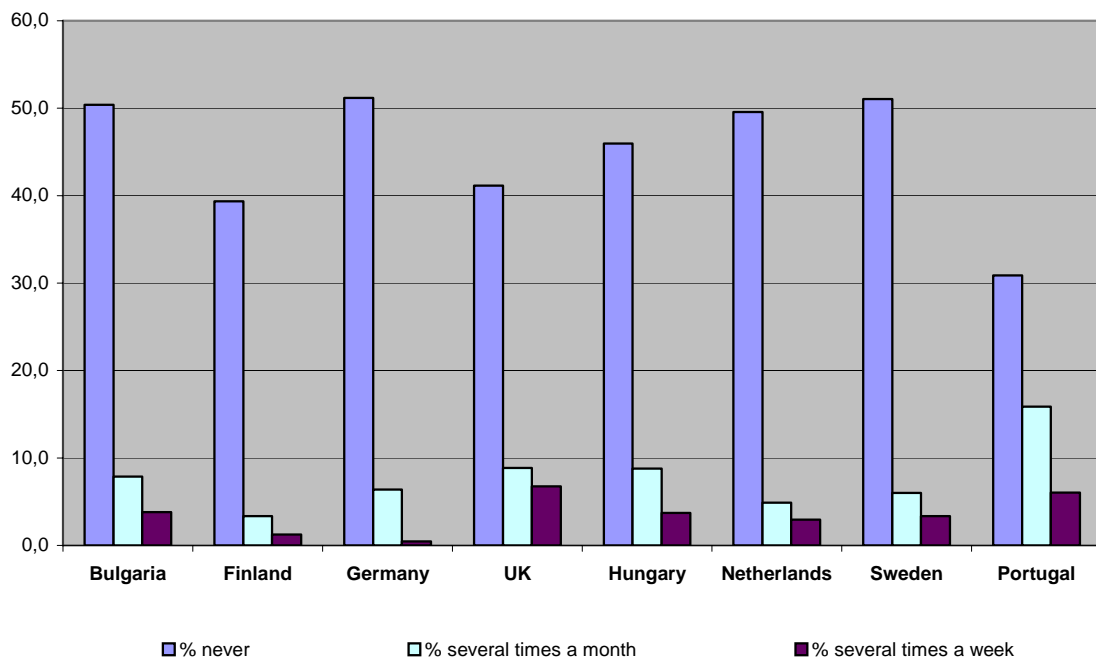
Work-Life Balance

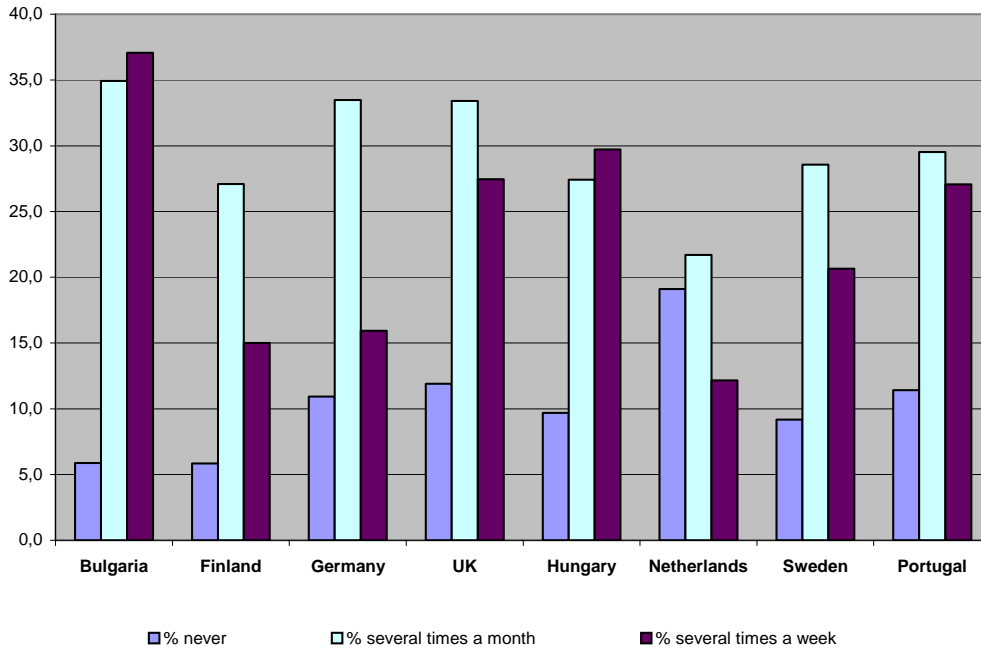
Work-family interference is assessed with three items on a 5-point scale (1 = several times a week; 2 = several times a year; 3 = several times a month; 4 = less often/rarely; 5 = never). Two items measure work interfering with family life, while one item assesses family interfering with work. The following figures present the proportions of respondents in the extreme categories.

Difficulties to Fulfill Family Responsibilities Because of the Amount of Time Spent on the Job



Difficulties to Concentrate at work Because of Family Responsibilities

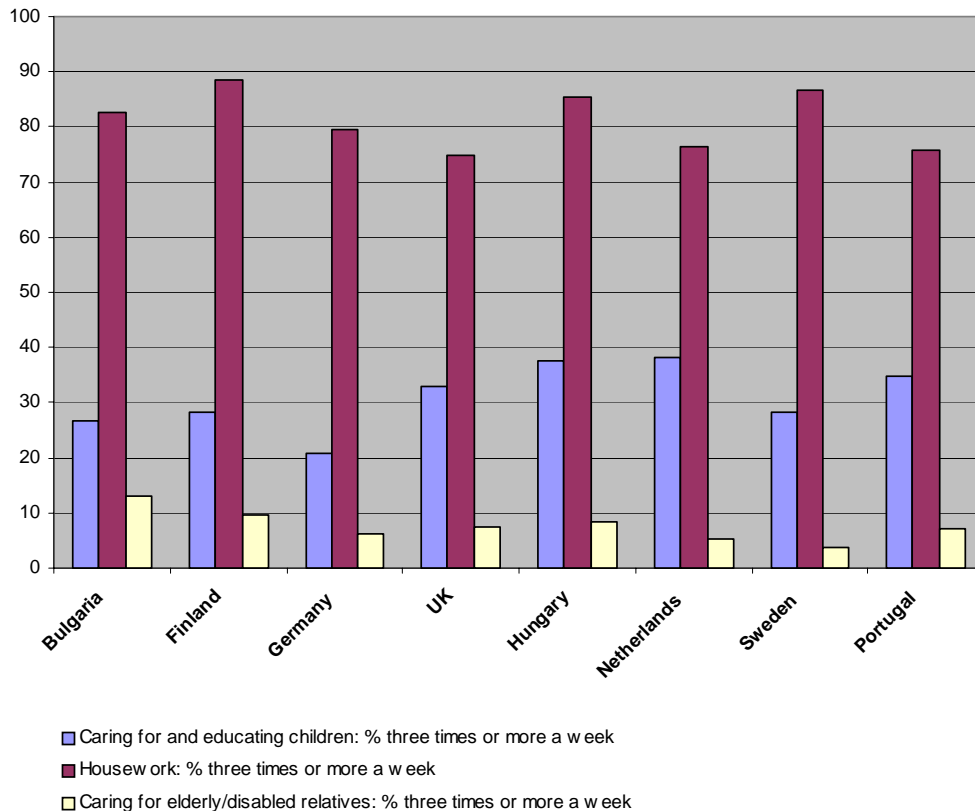




Nonwork Responsibilities

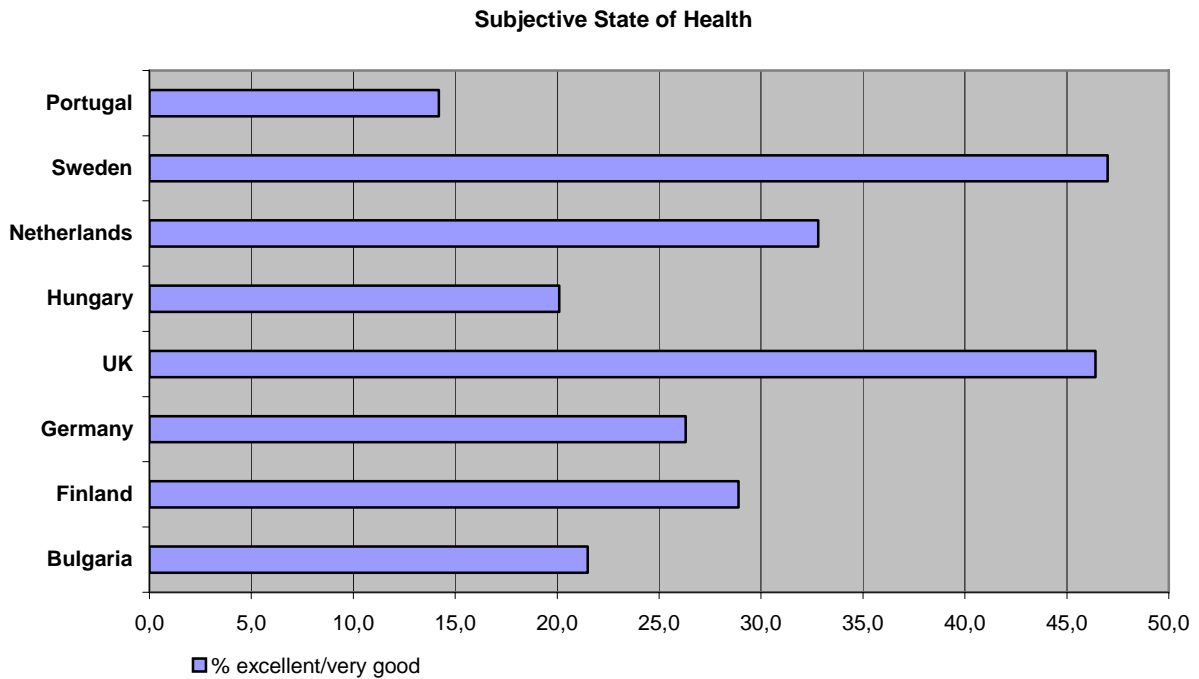
Participants are asked to indicate in two subsequent questions how much time they spend on nonwork responsibilities. First, participants are asked to indicate the actual number of hours they are involved in caring for and educating children, housework, and caring for elderly/disabled relatives. In a second question, participants are asked to indicate how often (every day, three-four times a week, once or twice a week, once or twice a month, less often, never) they are involved in those activities.

Time Spent on Nonwork Responsibilities

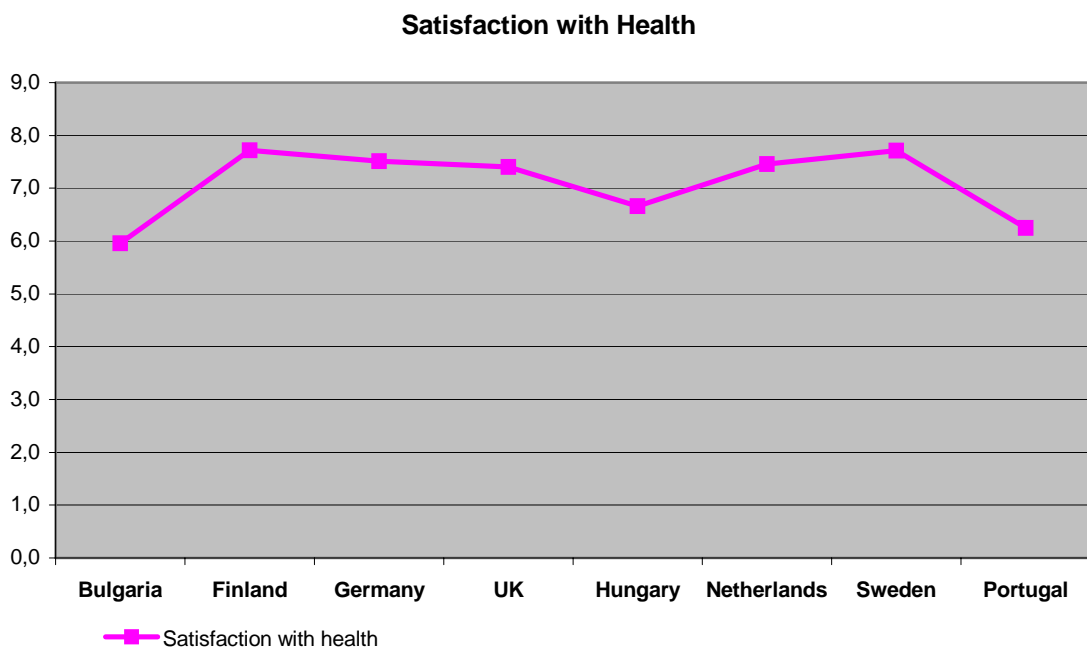


Health

Health is assessed with a single-item question, asking participants to indicate their general state of health on a 5-point scale (1 = excellent; 5 = poor). In addition, participants are asked to indicate whether they have any long-standing illness or disability that limits their activities. Long-standing is defined in the questionnaire as “over a period of time”.

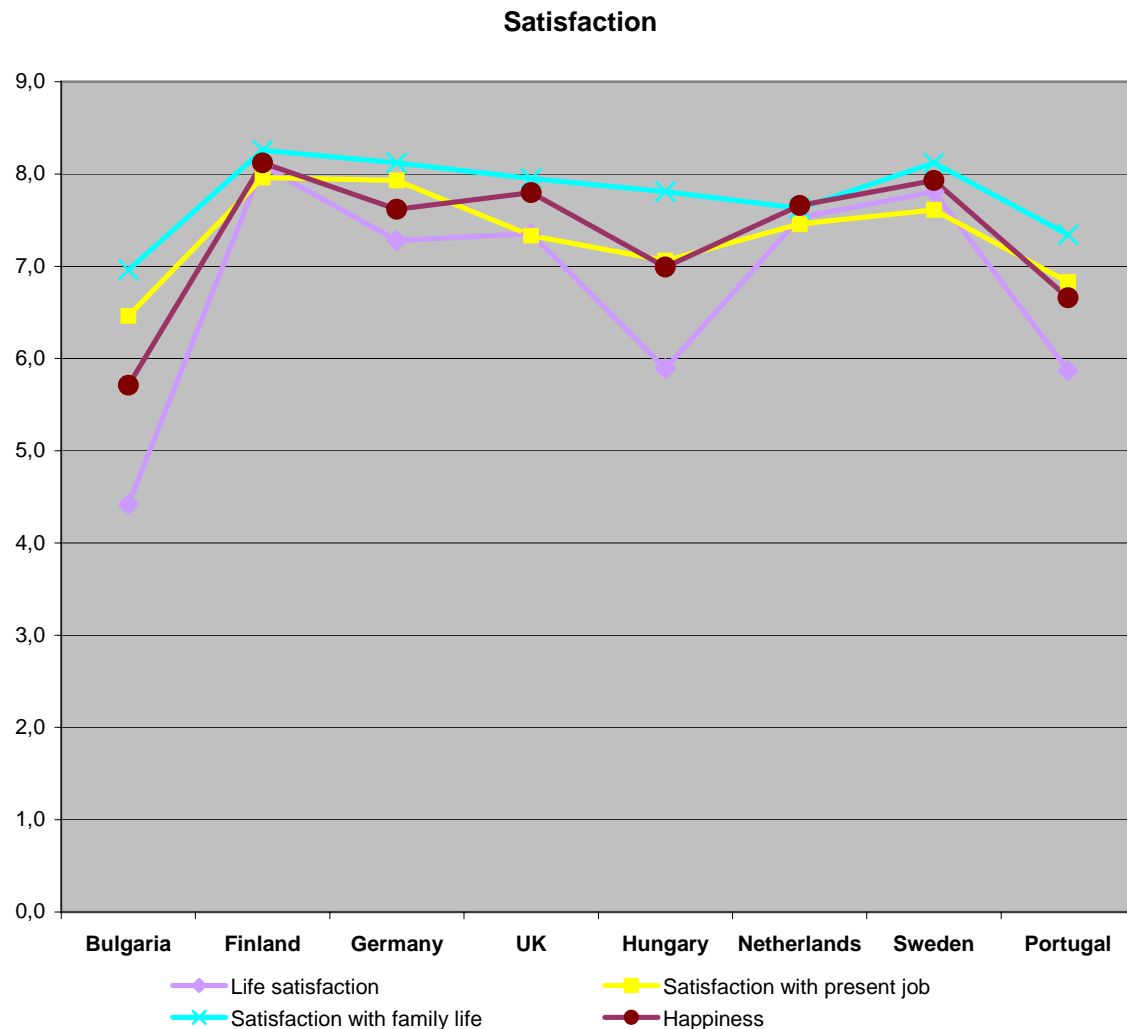


The level of satisfaction with one’s health is assessed on a 10-point scale (10 = very satisfied; 1 = very dissatisfied). The questionnaire does not contain any specific measure of health at work.



Subjective Well-Being

Life-satisfaction and happiness are assessed with a single-item question on a 10-point scale (10 = very satisfied; 1 = very dissatisfied). Satisfaction with other life domains such as family, job, accommodation, education, social life, and present standard of living are assessed with the same question.



Limitations

Although the European Quality of Life Survey provides a rich picture of social conditions within the European Union and candidate countries, it also has a number of limitations. Sample sizes of around 1,000 individuals per country provide a general population profile but they are too small to allow for a detailed analysis of subgroups, such as single parent families or immigrants. The small sample sizes are even more problematic if we look at relationships between quality of work and quality of life, because we can only build our analysis on those individuals who were in paid employment at the time of data collection. The sample sizes for the working population in each country range from n = 336 in Portugal to n = 592 in the Netherlands. Statistical analysis of subgroups such as working single parents, part-time workers etc. may not reveal significant results, especially if we look at interaction effects.

Furthermore, the survey covers a very broad range of topics which is perfectly in line with the interests of the European Union in giving an accurate picture of the social situation and the quality of life of European citizens. Plans to repeat the questionnaire in the future will allow for an assessment of overall trends. However, some of the measures to assess certain dimensions of quality of life are very narrow. Especially, many subjective indicators on quality of life and work are mainly comprised of single-item questions. Life satisfaction, job satisfaction or job insecurity, for example, are measured with single-item questions, although research on organizational behavior has developed multi-item measures which have been found to be reliable and valid measurement instruments in a number of empirical studies (e.g. Pavot and Diener 1993; Probst 2003). Another example is work-family interference which is measured with three items in the EQLS, two items measuring work-to-family interference and one item family-to-work interference. Work-family research has suggested multiple-item measures for both directions of interference (e.g. Carlson, Kacmar, Holliday Wayne, and Grzywacz 2006; Carlson, Kacmar, and Williams 2000; Kopelman, Greenhaus, and Connolly 1983). While those narrow measures are perfectly valid to follow up trends, they present an obstacle to academic publications in peer-reviewed journals which require multivariate data analysis and reliable, valid measures of the dependent and independent variables.

European Working Conditions Survey

General Information

The European Working Conditions Survey (<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/ewco/surveys/index.htm>) has been conducted for the first time in 1991, and has been repeated every five years since then. The project was initiated by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. While only 12 European countries were included in the first survey, the country scope has been extended in the subsequent rounds. The 1995 survey included the EU15, the 2000 survey covered the EU 15 and Norway, and was extended to the 10 candidate countries for EU membership (at that point of time) in 2001. The most recent survey of 2005 covered all 27 EU Member States (including Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Switzerland and Norway. Data is available for the first three surveys. The 2005 data set is expected to be released in May 2007, and can thus be included in the secondary data analysis of the QUALITY research project.

The survey is targeted at the active working population aged 15 years and over, hence individuals who were either employees or self-employed workers at the time of the interview. The target sample was 1,500 per country (except the smaller countries), and samples are representative of the total active population (individuals who were at the time of the interview either employees or self-employed). Table 3 gives an overview of the sample sizes of our countries of interest. Response rates in the 2000 survey range from 39% in Italy to 76% in Germany.

European Working Conditions Survey	1990 N	1995 N	2000/01 N
Germany	2495*	2087**	1540
The Netherlands	871	1065	1516
Sweden	----	1058	1574
Finland	----	1062	1496
United Kingdom	1090	1066	1514
Portugal	952	1000	1502
Hungary	----	----	1000
Bulgaria	----	----	1000

Table 3: Sample Size per Country and Wave

* West n = 1141; East n = 1354

** West n = 1034; East n = 1053

The aim of the EWCS is to provide a comprehensive picture on how workers experience and assess their working conditions and work lives in Europe. The following domains and areas of work are covered by the survey:

- **Work organization**
 - Work intensity
 - Autonomy and control

- Job design
- Task variety
- Teamwork
- Telework
- Computer and internet usage
- **Physical working conditions**
 - Temperature, vibrations, noise, etc.
 - Tiring positions, repetitive movements, etc.
- **Social support**
 - Support from colleagues
- **Working time**
 - Working hours
 - Schedules, shifts, and atypical time patterns
 - Schedule flexibility and control
- **Learning opportunities**
 - Personal development
 - Skills, training and empowerment
- **Psychosocial factors**
 - Violence
 - Harassment
 - Discrimination
- **Health and well-being at work**
 - Physical health problems (e.g. backache, headache, heart disease, etc.)
 - Psychological health complaints (e.g. stress, fatigue, anxiety, etc.)
 - Health risks, accidents and illnesses
 - Absenteeism
 - Satisfaction with working conditions
- **Work-life balance**
 - Fit between work and social/private life
 - Involvement in activities outside of work
- **Information and consultation**
 - Information about risk
 - Possibility to discuss working conditions
- **Income**
 - Income levels
 - Payment systems
- **Socio-demographics**

Selected Subjective and Objective Indicators

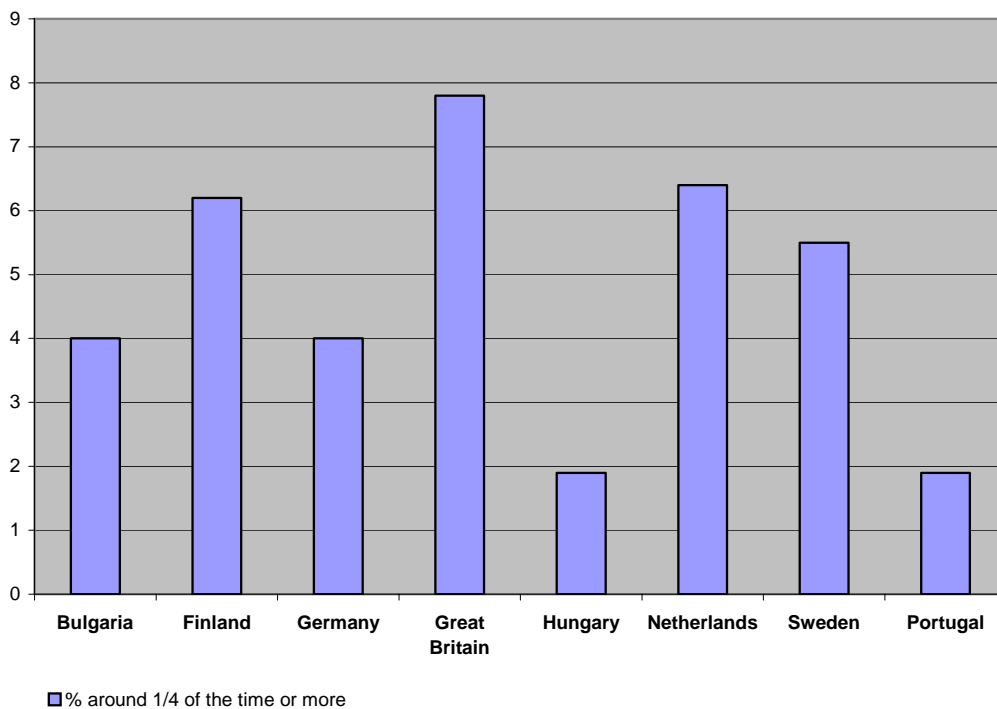
Job Insecurity

Job insecurity is assessed in a very similar way as in the EQLS. Participants are asked to indicate the type of contract they hold with their organization, and to evaluate how likely it is that they might lose their job in the next 6 months. In addition, the exact duration of the contract is assessed.

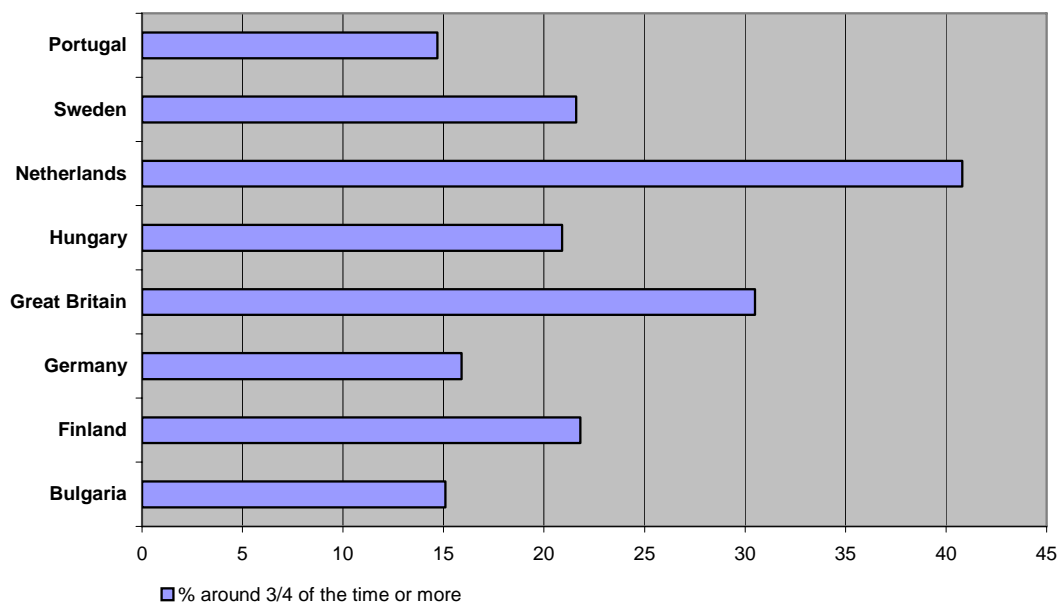
Working Conditions & Job Quality

The questionnaire contains a number of questions to assess physical working conditions and the nature of work in general. Participants are asked to indicate on a 7-point scale (ranging from “all of the time” to “never”) how often they are exposed to dangerous or unhealthy working conditions, such as noise, low/high temperature, smoke, vibration, skin contact with chemical substances or radiation. Furthermore, respondents are asked to indicate on the same scale how often their job involves tiring or painful positions, moving heavy loads or people, or repetitive arm movements. Respondents also indicate how often they work on computers, work from home, work in places other than home and company, or directly deal with people who are not employees (e.g. customers, passengers, patients, etc.).

Percentage of People whose Job Involves Teleworking from Home

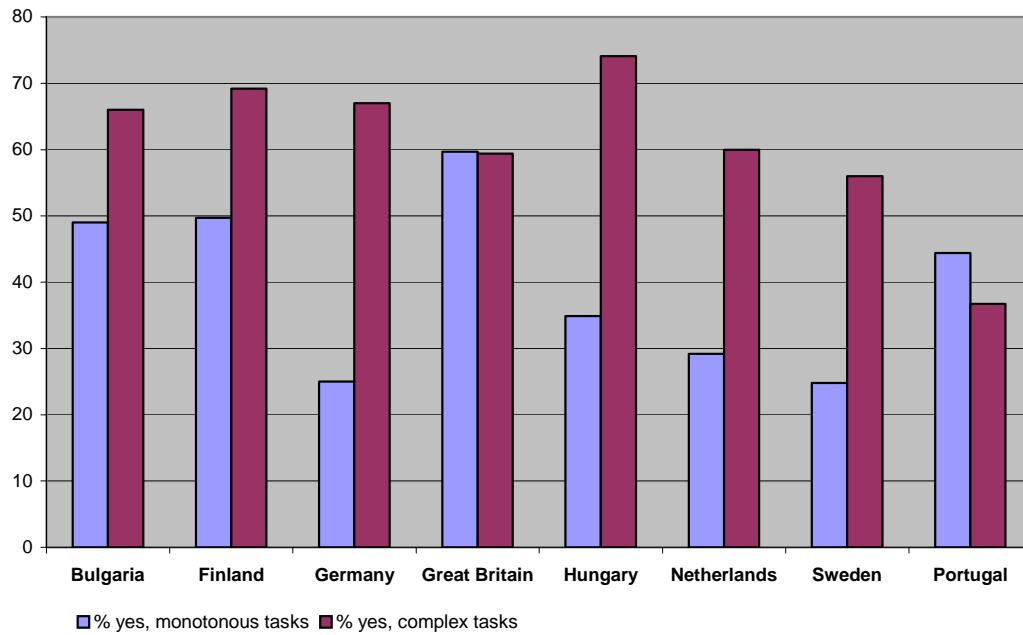


Job Involves Working With Computers



The questionnaire also includes several questions on the nature and content of the job. Participants are asked to indicate whether their job involves complex or monotonous tasks, precise quality standards, or solving unforeseen problems.

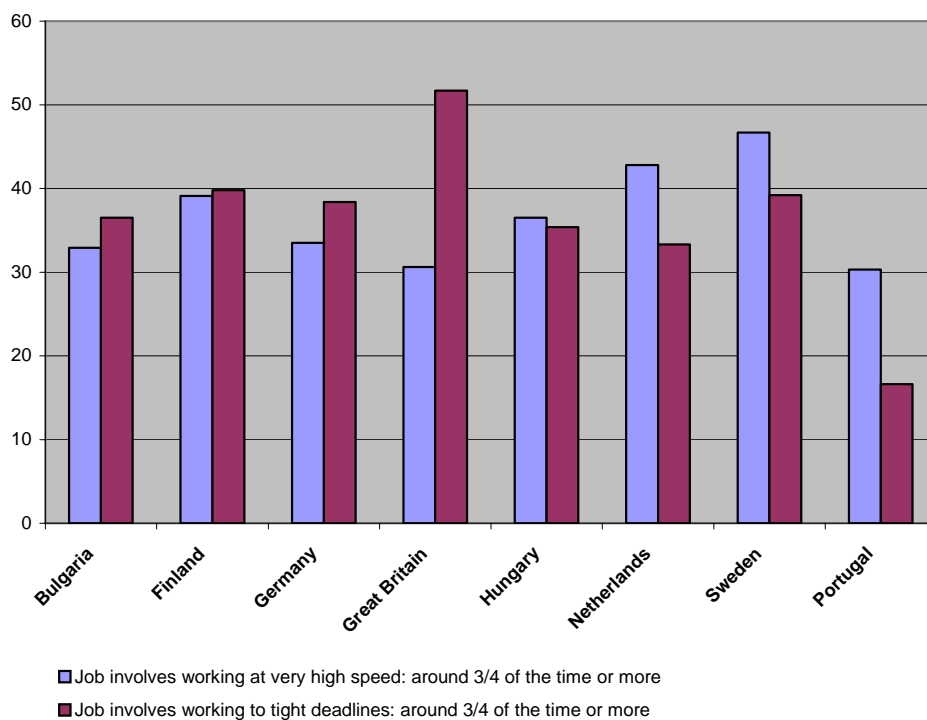
Job Involves Monotonous & Complex Tasks



Work Intensity

Work intensity is measured with two different questions. With the first question participants are asked to indicate if they are required to work at very high speed and to tight deadlines (7-point scale; 1 = all of the time, 7 = never).

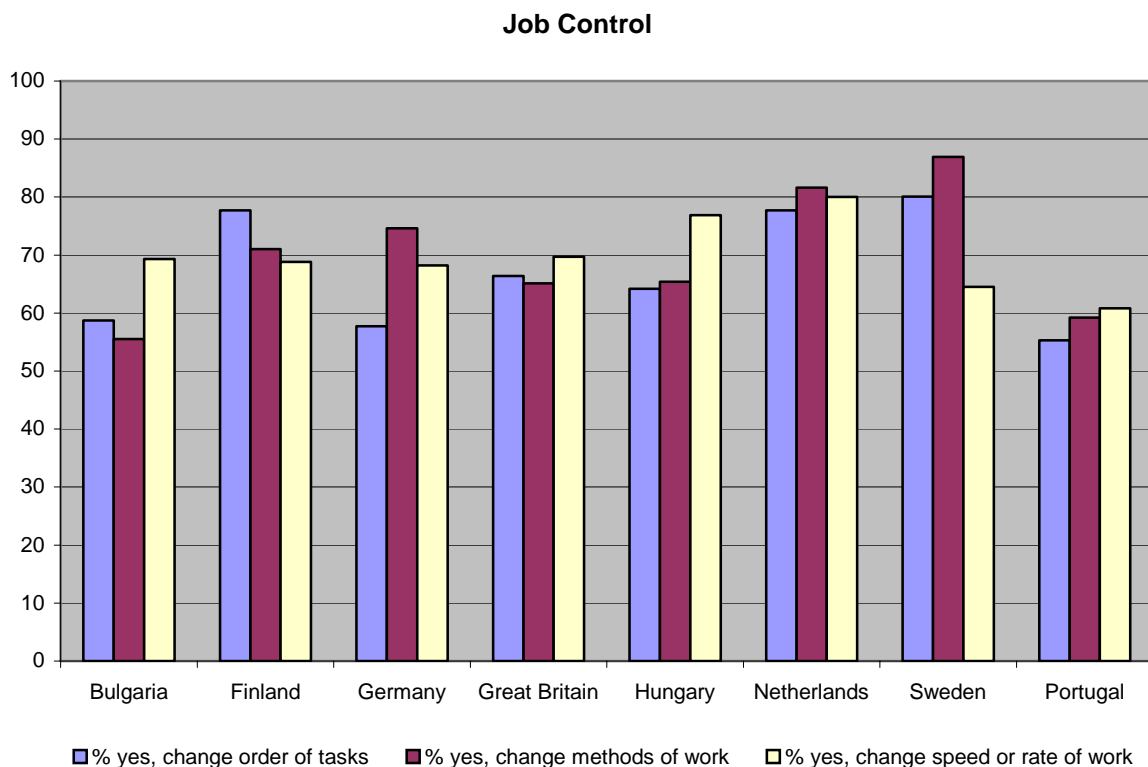
Work Intensity



An additional question assesses the sources of pace at work such as dependence on work done by colleagues, direct demands from customers, production targets, machines or direct control of the supervisor.

Job Control

Job Control is assessed with a series of simple yes/no-questions. Participants are asked to indicate if they are able to choose or change the order of tasks, methods of work, or speed of work. Furthermore, respondents are asked to indicate whether they are free to take a break or holidays, have influence over their working hours, have enough time to get the job done, and have access to a telephone for private calls at work.



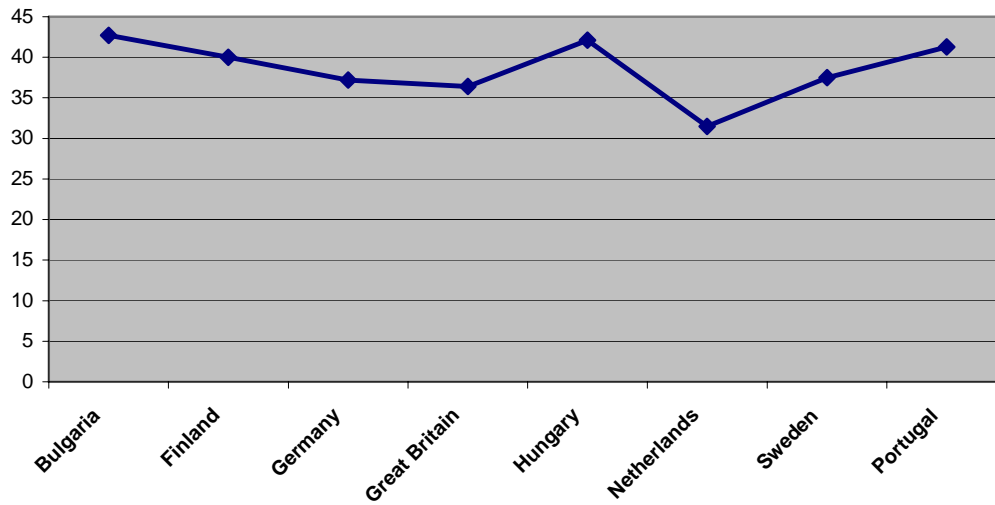
Social Support

Co-worker support is assessed with a single-item question that asks participants whether assistance from co-workers is available to them or not. The questionnaire does not contain a measure on social support from one's supervisor. However, participants are asked to indicate whether they had a discussion on work-related problems and their work performance with their boss or an employee representative over the last 12 months.

Working Time

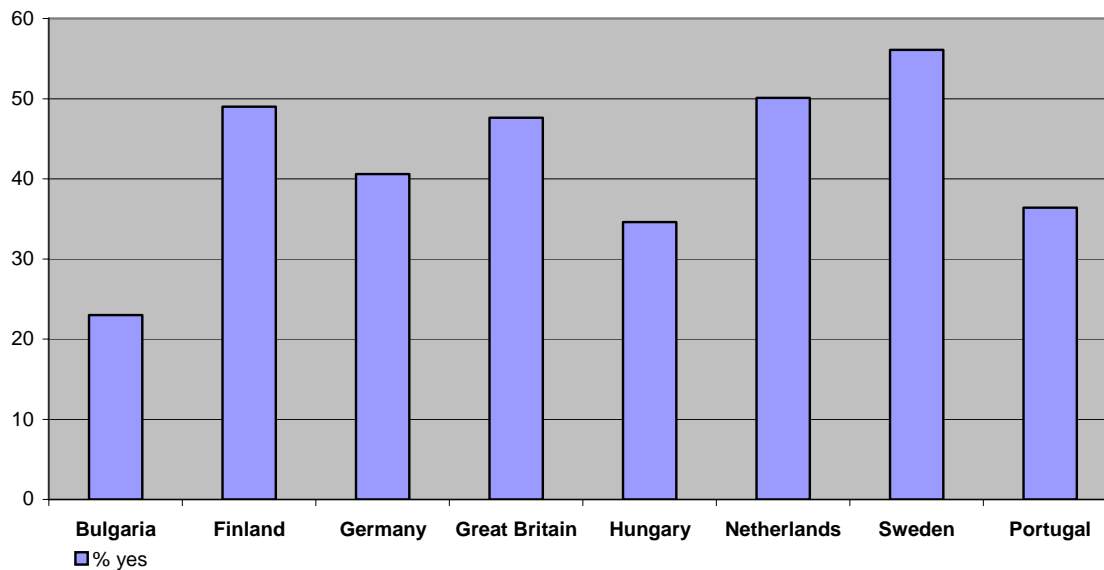
Working hours are measured by asking participants to indicate how many hours per week they usually work in their main job, and in their additional job(s) if they hold more than one working contract. Daily commuting time is assessed in a separate question. A series of questions assesses different working time patterns such as working on weekends and working various types of shifts. Different working schedules are assessed by asking respondents to indicate whether they work part-time or full-time, how the schedules are set, and whether changes in schedules occur regularly.

Average Number of Working Hours per Week



Autonomy over working hours is measured with a single-item question that asks participants to indicate whether they are able to influence their working hours.

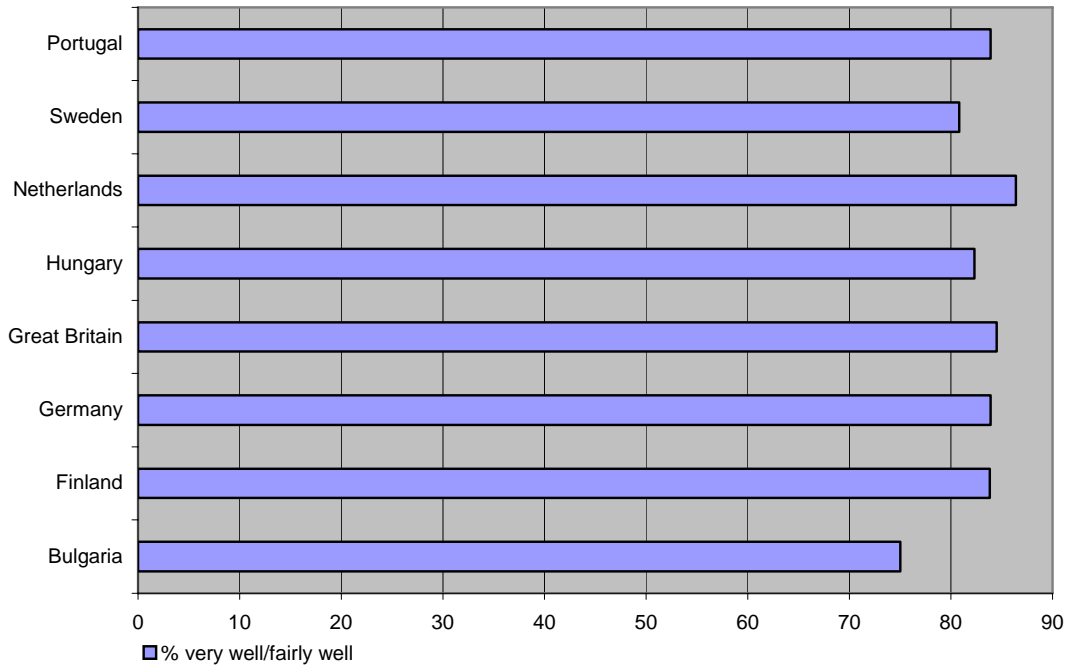
Ability to Influence Working Hours



Work-Life Balance

The questionnaire does not include a measure on work-family interference. In a single-item question, the fit between working hours and participants' family and social commitments outside work is assessed. Answering categories are very well, fairly well, not very well, not at all.

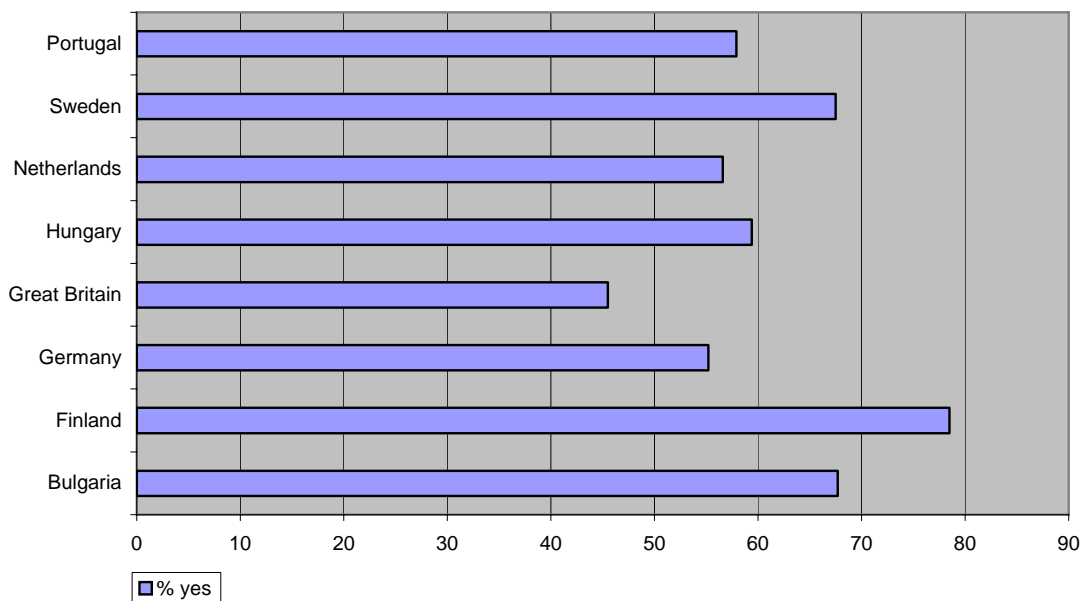
Working Hours Fit with Social or Family Commitments



Health

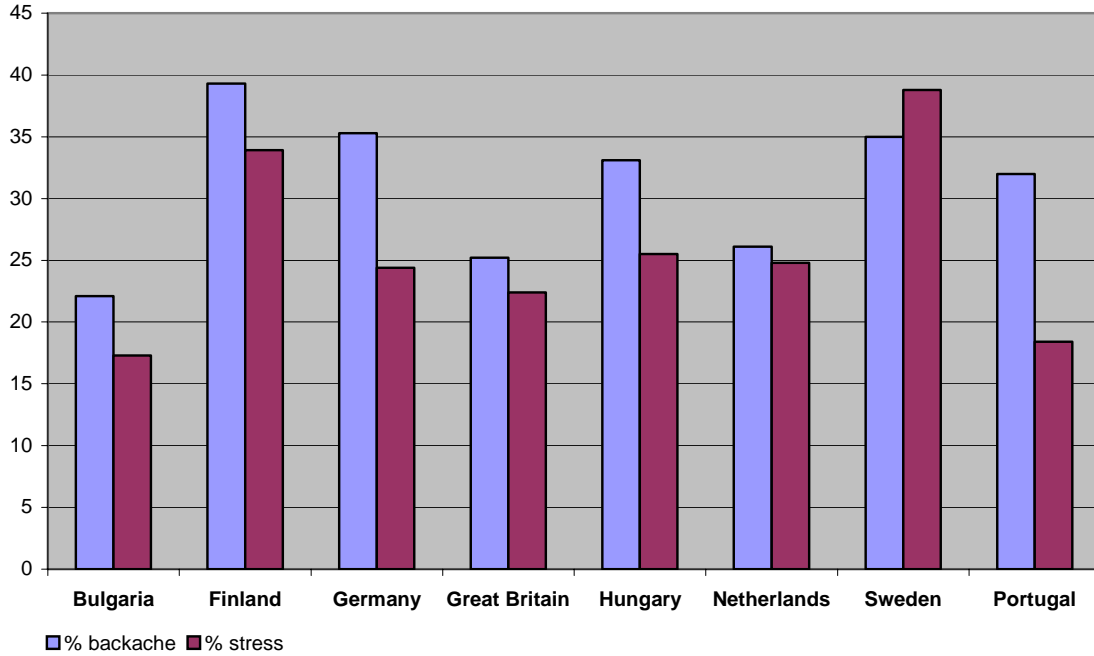
Respondents are asked to indicate the number of days they have been absent from work over the past 12 months due to an accident at work, and health problems caused by their work. Perceptions on the influence of work on health and safety are assessed with two questions: Participants are asked to indicate whether they believe that their health or safety is at risk because of their work, and whether their health is affected negatively by their jobs.

Work Affects Health Negatively



Participants are further asked to indicate how their health is affected by work. The questionnaire provides an extensive list of physical (e.g. backache, headache, skin problems, heart disease, etc.) as well as psychological health complaints (e.g. stress, fatigue, anxiety, etc.).

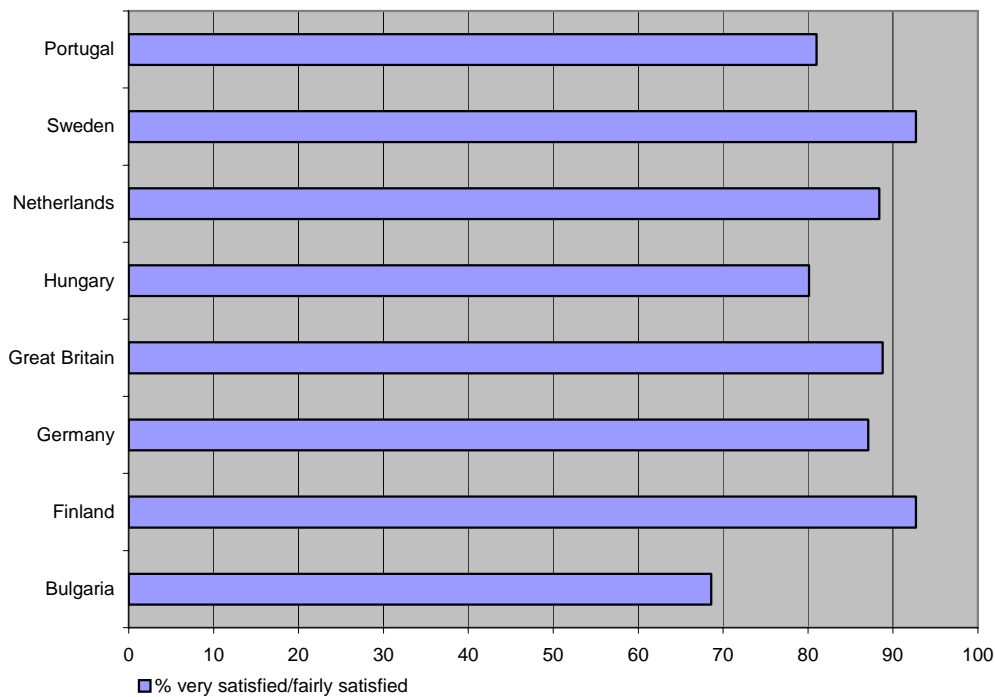
Work Causing Stress & Backache



Subjective Well-being

The ECWS does not include a measure on overall life satisfaction or happiness. It only measures satisfaction with working conditions on a 4-point scale (1 = very satisfied; 4 = not at all satisfied).

Satisfaction with Working Conditions



Limitations

The European Working Conditions Survey has rather similar limitations as the European Quality of Life Survey in terms of indicators. The indicators applied to measure certain working conditions are often comprised of single-items questions which is a problem in academic research. However, certain working conditions, such as job design, job control and autonomy, are assessed with 1-3 items in the questionnaire. Should these items load properly on one factor, a composite measure can be created. A factor analysis that will be conducted in the initial step of the secondary data analysis will provide more insights on these issues.

Sample sizes per country seem to be adequate, even for analyzing subgroups, such as employed, self-employed, employees with family obligations, etc. However, the distribution of participants across industrial sectors differs widely across countries. Hence, country comparisons need to be made with caution. In addition, the level of knowledge and awareness of problematic working conditions, as well as attitudes towards those problems may vary across countries. While in some countries the concept of a healthy working environment may be well known and widely accepted, in other countries deficiencies in one's working environment may be perceived as a normal condition of life, and thus may not be given special attention.

A last limitation of the European Working Conditions Survey that needs to be mentioned is its pure reliance on employees' perceptions. The assessment of the working environment is based on workers' perceptions reported in face-to-face interviews. Hence, in terms of an objective description of working environments in European countries the study certainly has its limitations.

European Value Survey and World Value Survey

General Information

Both, the World Value Survey and the European Value Survey series are designed to monitor changes in values and attitudes toward a wide variety of topics. The EVS was first carried out in 1981 in several Western European countries. Due to great interest in the study, the survey was then extended to several countries outside of Europe in the same year and was labeled WVS in non-European countries. Currently, there are four waves of the WVS and three waves of the EVS available. A fifth wave has been conducted in 2005/06 but data will not be available until 2009. Table 4 provides an overview of the sample sizes of our countries of interest in the various waves. The samples are representative for the participating countries.

WVS / EVS	1981 N	1990 N	1990 N working	1995 N	2000 N	2000 N working
Germany	1305*	3437**	2175***	2026****	2036	895
The Netherlands	1221	1017	497	----	1003	636
Sweden	954	1047	837	1009	1015	661
Finland	----	588	428	987	1038	521
United Kingdom	1167	1484	854	1093	1000	525
Portugal	----	1185	678	----	1000	454
Hungary	1464	999	558	650	1000	462
Bulgaria	----	1034	739	1072	1000	439

Table 4: Sample Size per Country and Wave

* *West Germany only*; ** *West n = 2101; East n = 1336*; *** *West n = 1194; East n = 981*;

**** *West n = 1017; East n = 1009*

WVS and EWV are conducted with local funding by an international network of social scientists. The following topics are covered in the questionnaire:

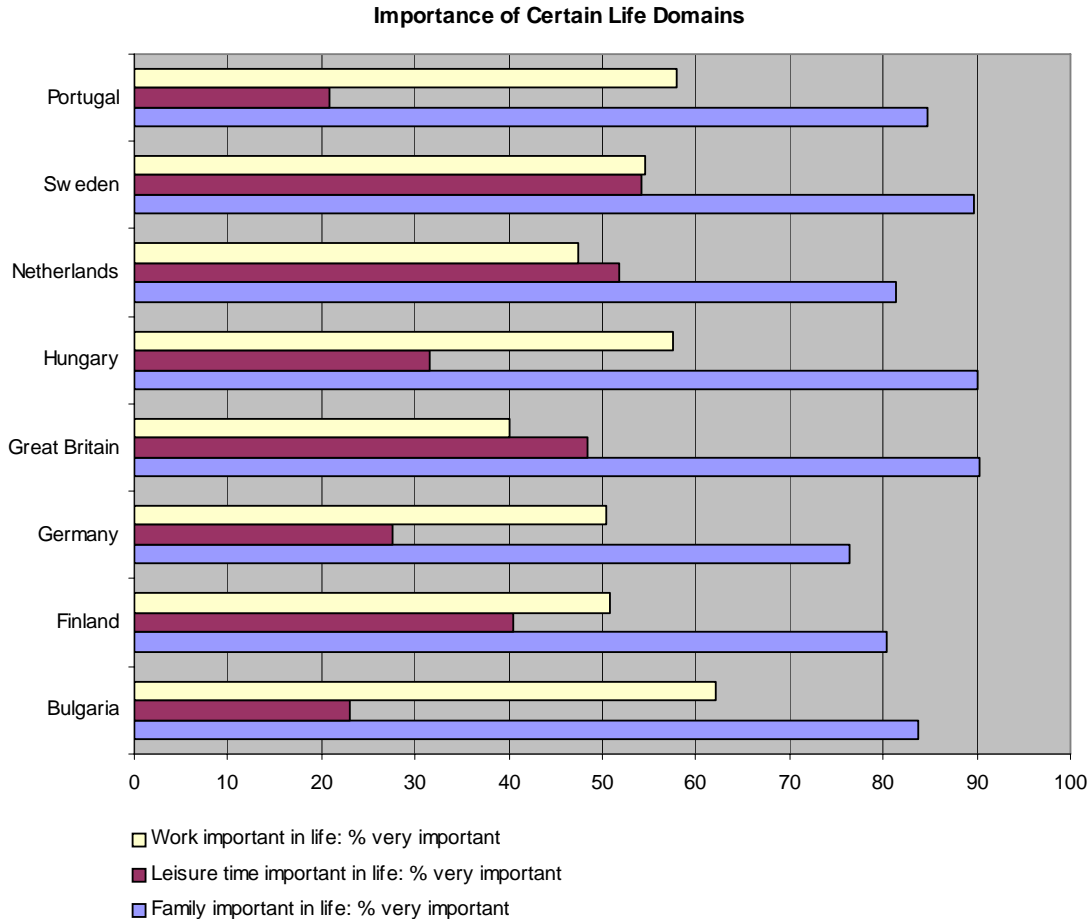
- **Perceptions of life**
 - Life satisfaction
 - Happiness
 - Importance of life domains
 - Free choice and control over life
 - Changes in life in the near future
- **Perceptions of family**
 - Role of parents
 - Education of children
 - Gender stereotypes
- **Perceptions of work**
 - Job satisfaction
 - Importance of work

- Importance of certain job characteristics
- **Social exclusion**
 - Social participation
 - Memberships and social services
 - Trust
- **State of health**
- **Environmental protection**
- **Politics and society**
 - Political attitudes and participation
 - Social situation
 - Confidence in and satisfaction with governmental/public institutions
 - Attitudes towards immigrants and out-groups
- **Religion, morale and general values**
- **National identity**
- **Socio-demographics**

Selected Subjective and Objective Indicators

Importance of Life Domains

Participants are asked to indicate on a 4-point scale (1 = very important; 4 = not at all important) how important certain aspects of life (e.g. family, friends, leisure time, work, religion, etc.) are to them.



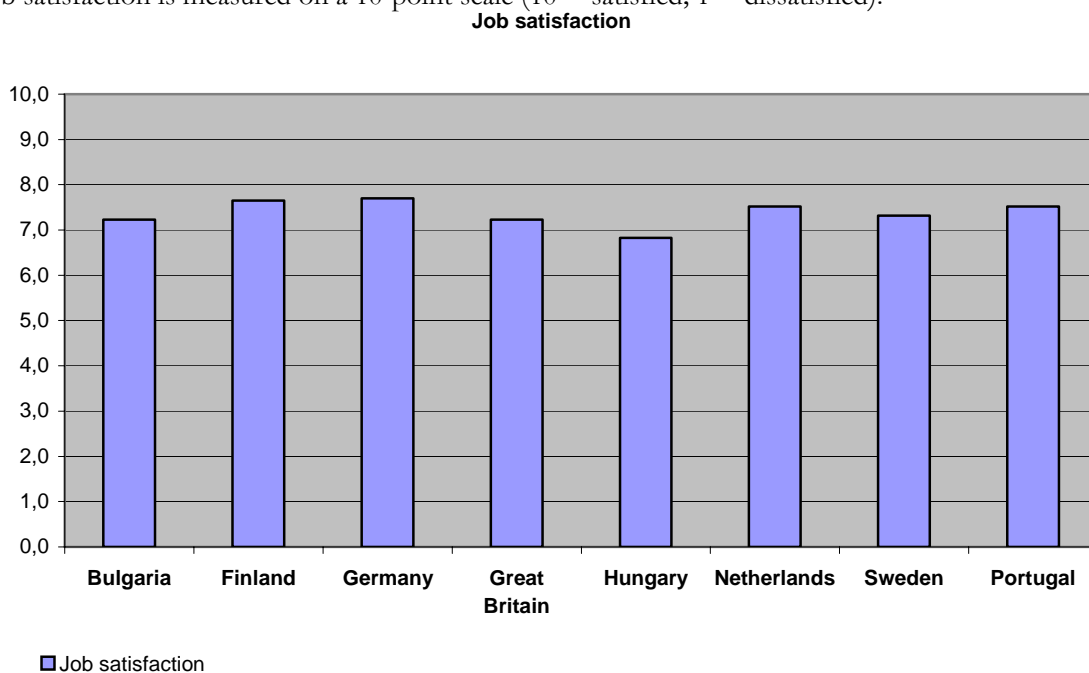
Quality of Work

Similar to the question on importance of life domains, the questionnaire assesses the importance of certain aspects at work. Participants are given a list of job characteristics (e.g. good pay, job security, opportunity to use initiative, etc.), and are asked to indicate which ones are important in a job. To illustrate differences and similarities across countries, we present some results for Bulgaria, Sweden, and Portugal.



Job Satisfaction

Job satisfaction is measured on a 10-point scale (10 = satisfied; 1 = dissatisfied).



Health

The WVS/EVS contains a single-item measure that assessed the overall state of health, and is thus very similar to the EQLS. Objective measures (e.g. days of absence, doctor visits) or specific measure on occupational health are not included in the questionnaire.

Subjective Well-being

Overall life-satisfaction of participants is measured with the same single-item question (10-point scale) as in the EQLS. In addition, the current state of happiness is assessed on a 4-point scale (1= very happy; 4 = not at all happy).

Limitations

Both survey series have similar limitations in terms of sample size and indicators as the EQLS and EWCS. Sample sizes come down to under 500 in some countries if we only consider the working population (see Table 4). In addition, due to the very broad focus on values and attitudes in various life domains, neither WVS nor EVS contain any specific measures on working conditions, work-home interference, or occupational health that would be interesting for the QUALITY project.

European Social Survey

General Information

The European Social Survey (ESS; <http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org>) is a rather new study that was first conducted in 2002. It is aimed at mapping long-term attitudinal and behavioral changes in the social, political and morale climate of European countries. Data collection takes place every two years by means of face to face interviews. Subsequent rounds have been conducted in 2004/5 and 2006/7. Data sets are free of charge and can be accessed via the ESS web page once they are released.

The questionnaire is comprised of core modules which remain relatively constant in every round, and two or three rotating modules. While the core modules are aimed at monitoring change and continuity in a wide range of socio-economic, socio-political, socio-psychological and socio-demographic variables, the rotating modules provide an in-depth focus on a series of particular academic and policy concerns.

The following domains and areas are covered by the different survey modules:

- **Core Modules**
 - Media and social trust
 - Medias usage (TV, radio, newspaper, internet)
 - Trust in people
 - National, ethnic, religious identity
 - Religion, attendance of religious services
 - Perceived discrimination
 - Nationality, citizenship, minority
 - Politics and political engagement
 - Political interest, efficacy, trust
 - Electoral and other forms of participation
 - Party allegiance; trust in institutions
 - Socio-political evaluations/orientations (e.g. satisfaction with government, democracy, health services, etc.)
 - Subjective well-being, health and security
 - Happiness and overall life satisfaction
 - State of health, longstanding sickness or disability
 - Security perceptions
 - Social exclusion
 - Social contacts and activities
 - Socio-demographic profile
 - Education and occupation
 - Financial and household situation

- **Rotating Modules**
 - Round 1 (2002)
 - Immigration and asylum seekers
 - Attitudes and perceptions of immigrants
 - Policy preferences and knowledge
 - Citizen involvement and democracy
 - Organizational memberships
 - Family and friendship bonds
 - Citizenship values
 - Working environment (working hours, unions, satisfaction with work)
 - Round 2 (2004/5)
 - Family, work and well-being
 - Psychological well-being
 - Attitudes towards men and women at work
 - Distribution of time
 - Division of (house)work between partners
 - Childcare
 - Job characteristics and work values
 - Work-family interference
 - Economic morality
 - Trust and interaction between producers and consumers
 - Trust and confidence in business and state/government institutions
 - General normative patterns
 - Health and care seeking
 - Health care, medication/medical treatment,
 - Doctor-patient relations
 - Round 3 (2006/7)
 - Personal and social well-being
 - Helping others
 - Positive and negative emotions/feelings
 - Overall life satisfaction and domain satisfaction
 - Sense of control and autonomy
 - Perceptions of the life course
 - Timing of life and key life events
 - Life course
 - Attitudes towards ideal age
 - Planning of retirement

Limitations

The core modules are only partially interesting for the QUALITY project, because they do not contain any new measures on well-being, health, and work other than those already covered by other surveys such as the EQLS, EWCS or WVS/EVS. More interesting would be the two rotating modules: family, work and well-being (2004/5), and personal and social well-being (2006/7). Unfortunately, Bulgaria joined the

project only in the most recent round, and the 2006/7 data will not be released until the end of September 2007 according to the survey web page. Thus, it is rather unlikely that we will be able to include the 2006 data set in our cross-national data analysis which is due in early 2008.

International Social Survey Programme

General Information

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP; <http://www.issp.org/index.shtml>) is a contentious and cross-national research collaboration that conducts quantitative research on a broad range of topics relevant to social science research. Two survey modules seem to be most promising to the current research project: Family and Changing Gender Roles (1994, 2002) and Work Orientations (1989, 1997, 2005). The following topics are covered by these surveys:

- **Family and Gender Roles**
 - Attitudes towards gender roles and women's employment
 - Attitudes towards marriage and motherhood
 - Division of housework among partners/couples
 - Distribution of income
 - Work-family interference
 - Happiness in life
 - Satisfaction with family life and work
- **Work Orientations**
 - Allocation of time
 - Attitudes towards self-employment
 - Attitudes towards trade unions
 - Job characteristics
 - Working conditions (e.g. schedules, organization of work etc.)
 - Work-family interference
 - Job satisfaction
 - Identification with organization
 - Job insecurity
 - Workplace relations

Limitations

Both waves on family and changing gender roles contain only a few measures on quality of life and work in general. In addition, only the 2002 wave covers all participating countries. Portugal and Finland did not participate in the 1994 wave. The working orientations surveys are mainly comprised of variables on working conditions, and are thus very similar to the European Working Conditions Survey. Similar to the family and changing gender roles module, our eight countries of interest are only included in the latest round (2005), and data collection has still not been finished in several countries (e.g., Portugal, Bulgaria, the Netherlands). As the survey does not offer a significant number of new variables that would allow for additional findings than those expected by analyzing the ECWS data, we will not include this data set in our secondary analysis.

Eurobarometer

General information

The Eurobarometer (EB) is designed to monitor trends in social and political attitudes within the European Union. Since the early seventies, the Standard Eurobarometer (http://www.gesis.org/en/data_service/eurobarometer/index.htm) provides regular information on these topics. Starting with Eurobarometer 34 (1990), separate supplementary surveys on special topics have been conducted regularly. In the nineties, the program has been complemented by the Central and Eastern Eurobarometer, which was later replaced by the Candidate Country Eurobarometer.

The Standard Eurobarometer covers the following topics:

- **Cultural and national identity**
 - Attitudes towards immigrants and out-groups
 - National (European) pride and identity
- **International relations**
 - Trust and perceived threats
 - Attitudes towards other EU countries and international conflicts
- **Living conditions**
 - Economic and financial situation
 - Expectations of changes over the next year
 - Happiness and life satisfaction
- **Information and language**
 - Frequency of media use
 - Knowledge of foreign languages
- **Politics**
 - Political participation and attitudes
 - Political parties
- **Values and religion**
 - Value orientation
 - Religiosity
- **EU topics**
 - Attitudes towards the European Union
 - European institutions and policies
 - European single market
- **Demographics**
- **Household situation**

Limitations

The Eurobarometer's main objective is to monitor trends in social and political attitudes, and thus a broad range of topics is covered. Consequently, measures on quality of work and well-being/health, that would

be interesting for the QUALITY project, are not included in the surveys. EB includes a standard measure on overall life satisfaction, additional questions on expected changes in various life situations over the next 12 months, and on previous and anticipated changes regarding the personal situation. Although the number of variables relevant to our research objectives is rather small, we will consider an analysis of questions that capture changes in life situation, because none of the other data sources contains such dynamic indicators. The relevant questions were included in surveys conducted in 2005 and 2004 in all participating countries. Expenses for purchasing data sets are moderate.

European Household Panel & European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

General Description

The European Community Household Panel (ECHP) is a standardized multi-purpose longitudinal survey that is designed and coordinated by the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat; <http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/echpanel/info/data/information.html>). It involves annual interviewing of a representative panel of households and individuals in each country, and covers a wide range of topics: income, health, education, housing, demographics, employment characteristics, etc. The ECHP was first launched in 1994 and was repeated in the following eight years. The initial wave covered 12 EU member states. Austria (1995), Finland (1996), and Sweden (1997) have joined the study later. The survey was terminated in 2001 because the funding expired.

In 2004, a new longitudinal study, the EU-SILC (European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), was launched in 13 member states (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_58814988&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL#B). The study aims at providing two types of data: cross-sectional data on income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions, and longitudinal data to monitor individual-level changes over time (typically over a four year period).

Data are collected at the household and the individual level. The following domains and areas are covered by the survey:

- **Household level**
 - Basic household data including degree of urbanization
 - Income (total household income, cross income components)
 - Social exclusion (non-monetary household deprivation indicators such as problems in making ends meet, extent of debt, lack of basic necessities)
 - Housing (type of housing, tenure status, housing conditions, housing costs, dwelling amenities)
- **Individual level**
 - Basic data (personal and demographic data)
 - Education (level of education attained)
 - Labor information (current job, unemployment, working hours, activity history)
 - Health (health status, chronic illness, access to health care)
 - Income

Currently, a cross-sectional dataset based on the SILC 2004 is available for 14 countries. Of the countries participating in the QUALITY project, only Portugal, Finland, and Sweden are included. According to the SILC web page, 2005 cross-sectional data of 27 countries and longitudinal 2004-2005 of 14 countries data will be released later in 2007. SILC data sets are not free of charge: 500 Euros for the first purchase of either a cross-sectional or longitudinal dataset, 250 Euros for any following purchase of either a cross-

sectional or longitudinal dataset; annual subscription for the first purchase of a cross-sectional and longitudinal dataset is 1000 Euros, annual subscription for any following purchase of a cross-sectional and longitudinal dataset is 750 Euros.

Limitations

The usage of the ECHP in contemporary cross-national research in the enlarged European context is certainly limited due to country coverage and the period of data collection. Data is now almost six years old. In addition, both the ECHP and its successor-study SILC are mainly based on single-items questions assessing predominantly objective living and employment conditions. Subjective indicators on quality of life in general or important life domains such as family and work as well as more detailed measures on working conditions (not general employment conditions), that allow for a statistical analysis of relationships between work and life, are unfortunately not included in the new SILC survey.

Closing Remarks

To conclude, the European Quality of Life Survey seems to be the most relevant source for our secondary data analysis. It provides a comprehensive data on quality of life, and some measures on quality of work, that will allow us to analyze the relationship between work and quality of life. In addition, we will also analyze data of the European Working Conditions Survey and the European and World Value Survey series. Because of their longitudinal character both studies are especially interesting for assessing changes over time.

The European Working Conditions Survey provides rich information on working conditions and contains some measures on occupational health. Data for all participating countries are available for the three waves (including the most recent data set of 2005 that should be made available to the public in Spring 2007), and thus allows for the analysis of trends. However, due to a lack of measures that assess overall life satisfaction, domain satisfaction, or interference with personal/family life, its usability for analyzing specific relationships between work and quality of life is limited.

The European and World Value Surveys includes in addition to overall satisfaction measures some variables that are aimed at evaluating the relative importance of certain life domains and job characteristics for individuals. Assessing changes over time in relative relative importance of life domains and job characteristics in our countries will also be part of the secondary data analysis which is the next step of work package 1.

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