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Paper title: "Re-entering the Labour Market after Parental Leave – Barriers and Support"

Abstract (up to 300 words):

With women's increasing participation on European labour markets, facilitating the reconciliation of work and family life has become an important issue on the agenda of policy makers. Yet, many women in Europe work part time only to combine work and family responsibilities, and often in less secure and long term jobs than men. With the economic crisis, support for young families has been partly reduced and jobs – especially those of women – have become less secure. How will this affect family formation, job perspectives and security as well as reconciliation?

One of the most important transitions in early family life occurs when mothers of young children re-enter the labour market and family life has to be re-organized around the new time-restriction. Various welfare regimes (with their different opinions on private and public family support) have resulted in different adaptation processes, both visible within family life and in the public sphere (on the labour market, in fertility rates, etc.). This paper dwells on the back-to-work transition process from an economic point of view and shows data for international comparisons of this transition and especially detailed data for the Austrian case. It will use existing literature on EU findings (and disseminated in the WORKCARESYNERGIES dissemination project) as well as new Austrian data on the re-entering of the labour market (AMDB, the Austrian Labour Market Service Database) and will offer (1) new insights into how families in general and especially in Austria make this important transition and (2) what effects it has for them as a family, labour market perspectives and social security.

Keywords: family transition, child brake, re-entering