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## **The breadwinner family model and child care in Spain from a compared perspective: A model in transition**

The overall model for the current Spanish Welfare regime and family policies (childcare) is the “breadwinner model”, which assumes that one parent, usually the mother, look after the children and the father is the breadwinner for the family. This is a substantial difference from Scandinavian regime, where the family policies are favouring the dual-earner household model.

However, despite the relative low participation of the women-with-children in the labour market, in Spain it is increasingly becoming more desirable for women with young children to work. Today, the main family model in Spain can be described as the “breadwinner model in transition” where the father usually is the main supporter and the mother is not working or becomes the second earner.

In the case of the southern European countries, the implicit *familism* in the collective imager and in the institutional context has made up a family model based on the traditional division of tasks, where mainly the woman is in charge of the child care and where it can be found a scarce externalisation of the family services, which are provided by the families themselves as an answer to the scarce family policies of child care. As a result of that there is a family model in transition between the desire of becoming a balanced family model and a reality where the traditional stereotypes persist regarding the family tasks share out and childcare as an answer to that institutional policy lack on childhood services that could encourage the uprising of the dual earner family.

From my point of view and according to the literature revised, the family policies and the childcare services developed by the Welfare states are strongly linked with the cultural factors on the family tasks and the parenthood. Therefore, I consider that there is a clear relationship between the limited institutional layout of childhood support and the cultural values linked with the *familism* in the southern European countries.

Therefore in this paper it is being made a revision of the contextual trends that have had impact on the policies and childcare provision in the European countries, with the last goal of placing the Spanish case in the general context of systematic reduction of the fertility, increase of dual earner and increase of the new family forms, such as the lone parent families.

The second part of the paper will analyse how the contextual and institutional processes have set up a set of attitudes, values and preferences on the childhood, the family tasks, the woman's employment and the work and family life balance regarding the restrictive policy model for childhood of the Spanish welfare state. For this purpose we will present some of the results of a Survey on reconciliation between work and family carried out in 2006 by the University of Valladolid.

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