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## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **'Changing Gender! Research, Theory and Policy for Gendered Realities of the 21st century'**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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#### **TITLE**

#### **The division of paid and unpaid labor in Greece**

In 1995 the European Network on Policies and the Division of Unpaid and Paid Work was launched. It was the result of a meeting in Tilburg where researchers from 11 European Union countries decided to set up an international network. The aim of the network was to prepare and conduct an international comparative study on the impact of various policy measures on the division of paid and unpaid work between men and women.

In the present work, the topic of the division of paid and unpaid work in families, researched to a very limited extent up to now in Greece is examined. The data come from the Greek Fertility and Family Survey (FFS) carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) in 1999, with a random sample of 3,048 women and 1,026 men personally interviewed, in the framework of the international FFS survey, co-ordinated by the United Nations in the 90's.

The main conclusion emerging from this research is that the traditional division of roles between the sexes is still quite evident in Greece. Men continue to be the main breadwinners, while women have often the role of housewives: 88% of men in the sample were in employment at the time of the survey, while the relevant percentage for women was equal to 45% only.

On the other hand, the time women spend in childcare tasks is double than men's time, while the time they devote to household chores is quadruple to men's. This gap becomes even greater in case of couples with children. Nevertheless, though not helped from their male partners, women receive important help, on a regular base, in the area of childcare from their parents or their partners' parents (usually the mothers or the mothers in law) especially when they are working. Social networks in Greece seem to function almost exclusively within the family context and may be named 'familial networks'.

Following the above descriptive analysis, regression analysis was carried out for giving a better insight on the division of paid and unpaid work. The results showed that the capital variables of occupation and education, and to a lesser extent some attitudinal variables, have in general a highly significant positive correlation with the division of paid and unpaid work, especially among women respondents. Among the dependent variables of paid and unpaid work, which comprise housework and childcare, it seems that housework is the most crucial one, since it presents the greater differences between men and women, in terms of hours spent in household chores. Therefore, policies aiming at more equal division of work between men and women should mainly address towards this area.