

ERASMUS+ Programme 2015 – KA2 Adult Education

Project n°: 2015-1-ES01-KA204-015937

Document name: **O1.- Complex research according to the ethnomethodological pattern by applying professiography to the target group of housewives - Germany**

Partner: Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband Ev – DVV

Author: Gisela Waschek

Employment and Women on the 21st century in Europe: From Household economy to SME economy (Small and Medium enterprises) – MUPYME Project

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The five observations took place in April / May / June 2016. Each interview lasted approximately 1 hour. Basic were the questionnaires from FEUP.

All five women wanted to rest anonym and did not allow taking photos. They do not want that their interviews are published on a website.

The observations were conducted by Gisela Waschek from DVV International, where she is responsible for Events and knowledge Management.

All five interviewed women live in Bonn .Four of them are German, one woman comes from Armenia. Three women have little children, one woman has an adult son who does not live in the same household, the children of another woman are already young adults (16 and 18 years) and still live with her parents. All women are married and live together with her husbands. Three of them live in a house, two of them in an apartment. The families have an estimated middle income level and have a well-equipped household. Four of them have an academic level; one woman has a nonacademic formation.

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FINDINGS

There is a significant difference between the women who have young children (here until 9 years) and the two women who have adult children.

The first group spends much time with the household, especially with cleaning the house, cooking and washing. For the two other women the tasks in the household no take much time.

In all five households there is no gender equality and a strict separation between men and women. The women are responsible for the household and only in one case the husband helps sometimes. But regarding the education of their children the the women try to educate girls and boys equally.

Other tasks in the household like budget, bookkeeping, major purchases the women do not decide alone, but together with her husbands.

In respect to the education and care for the children the women have the main burden. All husbands work in their job outside the home, the women stay at home, stop their professional career and take care of the children. For the women it is a very stressful job to be always responsible and available and to have multi-tasking work. The most decisions regarding the children take the women, only if there are major decisions the husband decide also. But regularly the women put the decisions in practice.

The women with the young children are content with their live. There main goal is the well-being of the family. They know that the actual situation is a phase which will end when the children are older. Then, will restart to work in their job. Naturally they regret not having time for herself but it is not a great problem.

None of the housewives doubt that they have many competencies to do a well-paid job. Except one woman they have a academic formation and have been respected in her job before getting housewives.

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All of them had no special training in the performance of the household and also actually no need to get training in household keeping and the specific tasks. They want to have more time to pursue their interests which are often linked to their professional formation.

The women with elder children have other interests. The children do not need a special care and it is not necessary to spend much time with the household. They are occupied with other activities:

The woman who comes from Armenia has the problem that her diploma is not recognized in Germany so that it is for her not possible to work in her job. She tries to find other jobs but this is not easy.

All five women never planned to become entrepreneur women. The reason was not a lack of self-confidence, but it is always a financial risk to be entrepreneur.

General Situation in Germany

In Germany, in all large cities exist information centers for start-ups. The administration of the town Bonn for example offers courses, edit information sheet etc. for men and women. Some years ago the interesting people were above all men, but in the meantime there are an increasing number of women who want to start a small enterprise.

There exist also networks especially for women. For example the “Network of consultants for Woman” in the district Rhein-Sieg and an international network: “Momprenneur” which has branches all over the world. Target group of Momprenneur are women with children.

The experience shows that women have other problems than men when they want to start up with an enterprise. The main problem is to arrange family (children) and job. Without a network of people who help with the childcare it is not possible to work successfully.

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Furthermore a good commercial knowledge is absolutely necessary. The networks and service centers offer specific courses. Another aspect is the legislation. Germany 16 Länder and in all of them there are different legal regulations.

The interviews with the five housewives from Bonn show that for them not a lack of self-confidence is a obstacle to become an entrepreneur women. There are many barriers to overcome and it is a great financial risk.