

2026 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-COORDINATORS

We are pleased to share the Fall 2026 newsletter of the International Network on Leave Policy and Research (LP&R). In this newsletter, we share updates on the Network's core activities and news:

1. Our New Coordinating Team
2. 2026 LP&R Annual Seminar (Prague, Czechia)
3. 2027 LP&R Annual Seminar (Modena, Italy)
4. 2026 LP&R Annual Review
5. Our New Website and Email List
6. Our Social Media
7. Welcoming New Members
8. News from our Members

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COORDINATING TEAM

The LP&R Network is entering a new chapter in our history of more than two decades. With the EU COST Action project coming to an end and our membership growing rapidly, this is an important time for both change and stability. Balancing the two was a key consideration when the current and past coordinators recently discussed the ideal composition of the next coordinating team.



We are delighted to welcome **Sonja Blum**, **Ivana Dobrotić**, and **Alison Koslowski** as our new co-coordinators.

To ensure continuity, **Andrea Doucet** will remain on the coordinating team for one year to support the transition to the new leadership.

We also extend our sincere thanks to our outgoing co-coordinators, **Marian Baird, Andrea Doucet, Johanna Lammi-Taskula, and Gerardo Meil**, for their leadership since 2021.



Past and Current Co-coordinators, Annual Seminar in Prague
Front row: Alison Koslowski, Andrea Doucet, Johanna Lammi-Taskula,
Sonja Blum

Back row: Ivana Dobrotić, Peter Moss, Ann-Zofie Duvander, Fred Deven
Missing from the photo: Marian Baird, Gerardo Meil, and Margaret O'Brien



Members of the
outgoing Coordinating
Team and new team
in Prague

THE 2026 LP&R ANNUAL SEMINAR

PRAGUE, CZECHIA (MAY 28-29, 2026)

Our 23rd Annual Seminar, “Parenting Leaves, Equality, and Social Sustainability: Emerging Research Agendas” was held at Charles University in the beautiful city of Prague.

The COST Action conference took place prior to the seminar, from May 26th to 27th.

You can find [the LP&R Seminar Programme here](#). PowerPoints will be posted on the new LP&R webpage soon.

Thanks to Team Czechia (**Jiřina Kocourková, Věra Slováková, Anna Šťastná, and Hana Hašková**) for hosting a wonderful seminar!



THE 2027 LP&R ANNUAL SEMINAR

MODENA, ITALY (SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2027)

SAVE the DATE: Sept 6-7, 2027. The next Annual Seminar will be held in Modena, Italy. Thank you to **Tindara Addabbo** and the Italy team for organizing our next annual seminar!

We will distribute the Call for Papers in January. Stay tuned!



2026 LP&R ANNUAL REVIEW

Congratulations to the Annual Review Team (**Ivana Dobrotić, Sonja Blum, Gayle Kaufmann, Alison Koslowski, Peter Moss, and Marie Valentova**) for the publication of yet another fantastic policy resource: The 22nd International Review on Leave Policies and Related Research 2026. Here is the [link](#) to the Review.

If citing the complete review, please do so as:

Dobrotić, I., Arnalds, A. Á., Kaufman, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P. and Valentova, M. (eds.) (2026) 22nd International Review of Leave policies and Related Research 2026. DOI: [10.31235/osf.io/2ujmw_v1](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/2ujmw_v1)

As of 2024, the 2026 International Review also includes [an accompanying file \(Excel\)](#) to the [comparative tables 2023-2026 \(PDF\)](#), enabling comparisons to be made between participating countries. Please note that while the comparative tables in the 2026 International Review are cross-checked by country note authors, the accompanying Excel file is not.

When using this data cite them as:

Dobrotić, I., Blum, S., Kaufman, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P., and Valentova, M. (2026) 22nd International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2026: comparative tables 2023-2026. DOI: [osf.io/qut8e/overview](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/qut8e/overview)

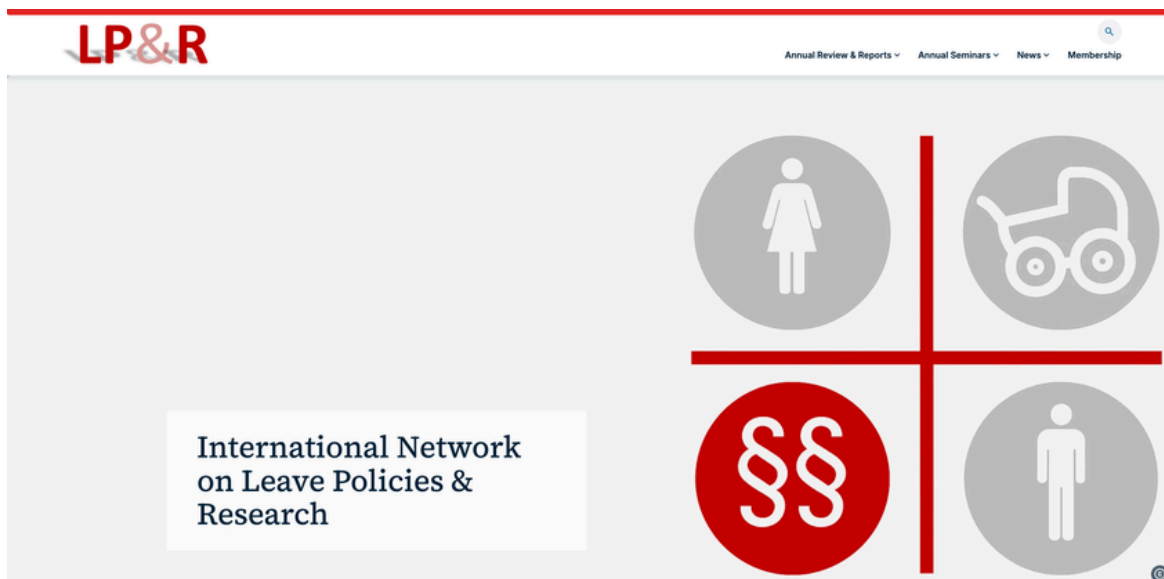
Please share via your social media accounts!

LAUNCHING THE NEW LP&R WEBSITE

We're pleased to introduce the new and improved LP&R website – the updated online home of the Leave Network, hosted by the University of Vienna. This new website and mailing list will also make it easier for members to find updates, share their work, and stay connected. Information on the new mailing list will be shared soon!

Many thanks to **Eva-Maria Schmidt** for all her work in launching and maintaining the website.

[Click here](#) to access the new webpage.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Want to keep up with the Leave Network team between newsletters? Follow us on social media! We regularly share updates, news about our members, academic publications, important updates, and new releases like the Annual Review.

[LinkedIn](#) is our main channel, though we can also be found on [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#).

Like, repost, and share our posts with your networks to help our members' research and work reach a wider audience.

Many thanks to **Kenya Thompson** and **Gerlinda Maurer** for managing our social media channels – Kenya on LinkedIn and Bluesky, and Gerlinda on Facebook.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to members who have joined the Network, or those who are taking on a new role!

Austria

- Sonja Spitzer – Junior Member

Belgium

- Laurène Thil – Full Member

Canada

- Donna Lero – Honorary Member

China

- Zhe Yan – Junior Member

Denmark

- Anna Diop-Christensen – Junior Member

Finland

- Satu Helske – Junior Member
- Miia Saarikallio-Torp – Junior Member

France

- Alix Sponton – Associate Member
- Jeanne Fagnani – Honorary Member

Germany

- Almut Peukert – Associate Member
- Anna Stertz – Associate Member

- Johanna Fischer – Associate Member
- Keonhi Son – Associate Member

Greece

- Evi Hatzivarnava – Honorary Member

Romania

- Rosa Maria Radogna – Associate Member

Serbia

- Marina Pantelic – Full Member
- Dejana Pavlovic – Junior Member

Slovenia

- Tatjana Rakar – Full Member
- Nada Stropnik – Honorary Member

Turkey

- Aysegül Kayaoglu – Associate Member

Ukraine

- Olena Sviatun – Associate Member
- Alla Fedorova – Associate Member

United Kingdom

- Kathrin Morosow – Junior Member
- Samuel Mohun Himmelweit – Associate Member
- Margaret O'Brien – Honorary Member

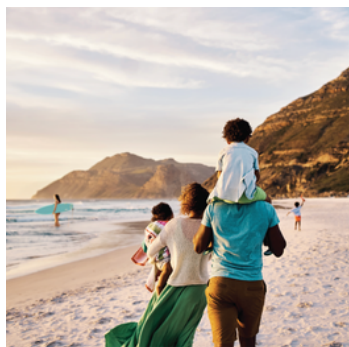
If we have missed any new members or made errors, please contact us at lpccoordinators@gmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

BOOK LAUNCH

Andrea Doucet and Peter Moss

“Care Leaves and Care Time for All” was launched at COST Action and LP&R Seminar (both in Prague), and then at the Thomas Coram Research Unit at University College London (UCL) on June 3, 2026. A recording of the event is available to view [at this link](#).



What if care was at the heart of how we organise our societies and economies? This timely book explores how care leave policies can help build and sustain caring democracies, economies and worlds.

Combining international research and policy analysis – and inspired by the work of Joan Tronto and other leading care thinkers – Care Leaves and Care Time for All offers a bold, yet modest, proposal for transforming care leave policies. It reimagines paid care leaves as universal social entitlements across the life course providing care time for children and elders, for self and others, and for our social and ecological worlds.

Amid growing care crises and other interconnected socio-economic and environmental challenges, this book issues an urgent call for a ‘global political awakening’ – one that centres and supports care giving, care receiving and care time for all.

This book is open access and available free [online](#).

Ivana Dobrotić

Ivana Dobrotić (with Siniša Zrinščak) co-edited a Croatian-language edited collection titled, “Families, Social Changes and Policies Targeting Families, Parents and Children in Croatia: A Critical Review of Three Decades of Development” (“Obitelji, društvene promjene i politike usmjerene obiteljima, roditeljima i djeci u Hrvatskoj: kritički osvrt na tri desetljeća razvoja”). Looking back over three decades of change in Croatia, the book brings together recent research on families and social change, gender inequality, unpaid care work, family and child poverty, the needs of vulnerable groups, migration, parenting and digitalisation, mental health, and long-term care. Although it is not available in English, it offers valuable insights for Croatian-speaking readers.



Alison Koslowski, Ann-Zofie Duvander, and Andrea Doucet (and many LP&R Members!)

Forthcoming (2027) from UCL Press! “Caring for the Future: Parental Leave and Pathways to Sustainability,” edited by **Alison Koslowski**, **Ann-Zofie Duvander**, and **Andrea Doucet**, brings together international perspectives to explore an important question: How can parental leave and care policies help build a more sustainable and just future? With contributions from many LP&R members, this book explores how parental leave connects with wellbeing, social norms, inclusion, employment, and economic and environmental sustainability. Its chapters range from research on leave policy and care across different national contexts, to broader reflections on what it means to care for the future.

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Ivana Dobrotić, Mirna Varga, and Sonja Blum

The University of Zagreb's Faculty of Law has launched a new four-year project, "The Right to a Family? Challenges of Family Reunification and Access to Social Rights of Migrant Workers from Asia in Croatia" (PROVICI), funded by the European Union through the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Led by Ivana Dobrotić, the project examines how migrant workers from Asian countries access family reunification and related social rights in Croatia. It will identify policy barriers—including residence, employment, and insurance requirements that can restrict access to parental and child benefits—and support advocacy for more inclusive policies. Outputs will include academic publications, policy recommendations, an event for early-career researchers, educational activities, and a doctoral dissertation.

Learn more about this project [here](#).

Maria Karamessini

In November 2025, the research project "The Greek Elderly Care System: Inclusiveness & Gender Equality" (GELDERIN) concluded under the scientific coordination of Prof. Maria Karamessini. Conducted by Panteion University's Centre for Gender Studies, the project examined gaps in Greece's elder-care system and the roles of informal caregivers and migrant women from a gender perspective.

The findings appear in the Greek-language volume "The Greek Elderly Care System Facing Demographic Ageing: The Challenges of Inclusiveness and Gender Equality," edited by Prof. Karamessini and published by Topos Publications in 2025. The volume is available [online](#). It follows her 2019 volume with Prof. Maria Symeonaki on the development of work-family reconciliation policies in Greece.

Meret Lütolf

"Paternal Leave Duration and the Closure of the Gendered Family Work Gap," published in 2025 in "Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society" was selected as a nominee for the 2026 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work and Family Research.

Eva-Maria Schmidt

Eva-Maria Schmidt took on a new position as Deputy Scientific Director of the Austrian Institute for Family Studies.

Eva-Maria has also been awarded a three-year research grant from the Austrian Science Fund. Beginning in January 2027, the qualitative study will examine social norms surrounding fatherhood. More info can be found [here](#).

Marie Valentova

In October 2016, parental leave reforms were passed by the Chamber of Deputies. These reforms expanded eligibility, increased flexibility and income-related benefits, and allowed parents to defer mortgage payments while on leave. In a project funded by the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Dr. Valentova, with Kristell Leduc, Anne-Sophie Genevois, and Laureen Vanni are conducting a long-term evaluation using data from 2004 to mid-2023, building on an earlier interim study. The evaluation will assess the reform's effects on employment, gender equality, and families while accounting for other policy changes and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on women's employment, increased remote work, and intensified childcare demands.

Learn more about the project [here](#).

MAJOR REPORTS

Pedro Romero Balsas, Evi Hatzivarnava-Kazassi, Anna Kurowska, Katre Pall, Eva-Maria Schmidt, and Sonja Spitzer

Several LP&R Network members have authored a new report, “The European Parenting Leave Policies (EPLP) dataset: Leave duration entitlements for 21 countries from 1970 to 2024.” The European Parenting Leave Policies (EPLP) Dataset is a new research tool that offers an unprecedented look at how caregiving and work have evolved over the last half-century. Tracking regulations across 21 European countries from 1970 to 2024, this comprehensive dataset captures 55 years of statutory leave entitlements for employed birth mothers and co-parents. By analyzing 33 distinct variables—including maternity, paid parental, and job-protected leave, alongside modern incentives for splitting time off—the EPLP dataset provides researchers and policymakers with the harmonized, quantitative data needed to study how policy reforms directly impact fertility, employment, and gender equality.

The report can be found [here](#).

Mara Yerkes

Since August 2022, both parents in the Netherlands have been entitled to nine weeks of paid parental leave during their child’s first year, compensated at 70% of their daily wage (up to a capped maximum). This report—published in Dutch as *Tijd om te zorgen: Evaluatie van het betaald ouderschapsverlof*—evaluates the implementation of this new benefit and how it functions in practice. It examines who uses the leave (mothers and fathers), when and how the weeks are taken, and the factors shaping take-up, including financial considerations, workplace culture, workload, and perceived career impacts. The evaluation also assesses the policy’s effects on parents’ well-being and work-family balance, as well as broader implications for gender equality in caregiving and continued labour-market participation.

The report, published in Dutch, can be found [here](#).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Ivana Dobrotić

Gergorić, M. & Dobrotić, I. (2025), Understanding Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): Basic principles, critical issues and empirical application, Reference Module in Social Sciences, Elsevier, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-443-26629-4.00079-4>

Dobrotić, I., & Plasová, B. (2025). "30: Transformation of care regimes in Central Eastern Europe: the case of Croatia and the Czech Republic". In Ranci, C., & Rostgaard, T. (Eds.). Research Handbook on Social Care Policy. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839103698.00041>

Ivana Dobrotić & Sonja Blum

Blum, S. & Dobrotić, I. (2026) 'Family policy change' and the dependent variable problem: A systematic review of theories, conceptualisations, and measurements. Journal of European Social Policy, [10.1177/09589287261449041](https://doi.org/10.1177/09589287261449041)

Blum, S., & Dobrotić, I. (2025). "34: Early childhood education and care in times of COVID-19". In Ranci, C., & Rostgaard, T. (Eds.). Research Handbook on Social Care Policy. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839103698.00046>

Ivana Dobrotić & Merve Uzunalioglu

Dobrotić, I. & Uzunalioglu, M. (2026) One Size Fits Few: The Evolution of the European Union's Work-Life Balance Agenda over Three Decades, Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society, [jxag013](https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxag013), <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxag013>

Maria Karamessini

Karamessini, M. (2026), The 'Care Transition' in Turbulent Times. In Rubery, J., Sánchez-Mira, N., Insarauto, V. (eds), [Women in Turbulent Times: Crises, Transitions and Challenges for Gender Equality](#). Routledge

Annick Masselot

Silke Clausing and Annick Masselot, (2026) Gendered fault lines: unpaid care and employment in disasters in Aotearoa New Zealand, 41(2) Australian Journal of Emergency Management, 13-28 www.doi.org/10.47389/41.2.18.

Sophie Goossens & Annick Masselot, A Race Against Time: The Dynamics of Work-Life Balance Policies, (2025) Action publique. Recherche et pratiques, Hors-série n°3 / English special issue #3, 33-46, ISSN 2647-3135.

Chunyu Han and Annick Masselot, The Privacy Paradox in Domestic Violence and Workplace Protections, In Amanda Reilly and Joshua Fairfield (eds.), Perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Workers' Right to Privacy (Centre for Commercial and Corporate Law, 2025), 63-80

Gerardo Meil

Meil, G. & Rogero-García, J. (2026), Work-Life Balance Measures for Fathers as an Instrument to Foster Gender Equality in Family Work. The Experience of Spain. In Vida Česnuitytė, Gerardo A. Meil Landwerlin, Jesús Rogero-García & Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė (eds), European Families Facing Hard Times: Challenges, Strategies, and Family Policies, Emerald Publishing, pp 231-248. doi:10.1108/978-1-83608-894-320261013. Available in <https://www.emerald.com/books/edited-volume/21482/European-Families-Facing-Hard-TimesChallenges>

Vida Česnuitytė, Gerardo A. Meil Landwerlin, Jesús Rogero-García & Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė (eds), European Families Facing Hard Times: Challenges, Strategies, and Family Policies, Emerald Publishing, DOI:

Gerardo Meil and Pedro Romero-Balsas

Meil, G., Romero-Balsas, P. (2026). Parenting Leave Policy and Social Sustainability: Does Increase in Paternity Leave Rights Decrease Motherhood Penalty at the Workplace? The Spanish Experience. In Isabel Novo-Corti, Xose Picatoste, Marco Valeri (eds) (2026). Human Resource Development for Sustainability and Social Responsibility, cap.13, pp. 165-180 ISBN 978-3-032-09682-1 <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-09683-8>

Eva-Maria Schmidt

Schmidt, E. M., Dörfler-Bolt, S., Geserick, C., Kaendl, M., Kapella, O., Neuwirth, N., & Wernhart, G. (2026). State of Families in Austria: Key Data, Challenges, and Support. In: *Marriage & Family Review*, 1–61.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2026.2656199>

Décieux, F., Schmidt, E.-M., & Zartler, U. (2026). Mothers, emotion work, and feeling rules: Achieving positive emotions for the sake of the child. In: *Journal of Family Research* (38), S. 80–98. <https://doi.org/10.20377/jfr-1287>

Anja Sterz

Stertz, A. M., & Waismel-Manor, R. (2026). Take it or leave it: how maternal leave duration affects societal perceptions of women in Germany and Israel.

Community, Work & Family. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2026.2621075>

Marie Valentova

Plasova, B., Valentova, M. & Alieva, A. (2026), Civil Society and Work-Family Reconciliation Policies: Focus on the Role of Employers. In : Greve, B., Poskute, V. & Lopes, A. (eds.). *Handbook on Social Policy and Civil Society*. London: Edward Elgar Publishing, p. 38-56 18 p. (Edward Elgar Handbooks in Social Policy and Welfare series).

Canto, O., Nagore, A., Valentova, M. (November 2025) Measuring labor attachment trajectories in large periods of time. Esch-sur-Alzette: LISER, 38 p. (Working papers; n°2025-09).

Mara Yerkes

Kesteren, J. van, Casteren, B. van, Veuger, C., Vlaanderen, M., Hart, A. 't., Hoeve, R. van der, Veldkamp, C., van Huizen, N., & Yerkes, M. (2026). Time to Care: An Evaluation of Paid Parental Leave: Reach, Utilization, Effects, and Effectiveness. SEO, Economisch Onderzoek.

UPCOMING EVENT

Marie Valentova, Johanna Lammi-Taskula, and Johanna Närvi

LP&R Network members will speak at Finland's 12th annual Gender Equality Days on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. They will present research on how workplaces in Finland and Luxembourg are implementing parental leave reforms. Running from 12 to 4 p.m. Finnish time, the English-language programme will also feature lectures on the caring economy and a panel discussion, "Shaping the Future: Opportunities and Obstacles for Family-Friendly Workplaces." See here for the [full programme](#).

DID WE MISS ANYTHING?

If your news, highlights, or recent publications on parental and care leave are not included here, please get in touch so we can feature them in our next newsletter. If you submitted something that we missed, we sincerely apologize for the omission, and we will include it in our next newsletter.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who shared updates and publications for this newsletter. We will send our next call for contributions in early 2027, and we encourage all members to submit their news. We can only celebrate and promote the Network's work when we hear about it!

We will circulate the call for papers for the 2027 Annual Seminar in January 2027.

The LP&R Coordinating Team extends special thanks to Andrea Doucet, Kenya Thompson, and Jennifer Turner for writing, gathering contributions, organizing, and designing this newsletter. We also thank Eva-Maria Schmidt for maintaining our website.