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**Les vulnérabilités familiales:
constats, explications et politiques**

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POLITIQUES FAMILIALES À L'AUBE DU 21^E SIÈCLE : NOUVELLES TENDANCES ET VULNÉRABILITÉS DANS LA VIE FAMILIALE

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Politiques familiales à l'aube du 21^e siècle: nouvelles tendances et vulnérabilités dans la vie familiale

The first decades of the 21st century have significantly challenged national welfare states and policies to support children and families. All European countries have been coping with new family trends and vulnerabilities, driven by both long-term and short-term social and economic developments. Although these trends and their effects vary across countries, child and family poverty levels have increased, the rebound in fertility rates has stalled, as has the growth in female employment, and pluralisation in family forms and transitions reveals various aspects and dimensions of vulnerability beyond economic hardship (e.g. stigmatisation, weak informal care support, effects of mobility and transnational living, risks related to disability or dependency). How have countries fared in tackling family and children's issues during the past ten years? Has family and child well-being been high on the political agenda? Have policy actions taken into account recommendations concerning financial support for vulnerable families, the reconciliation of work and family, the promotion of gender equality, the uncertainties of parenthood and parenting? And what has been the impact of these policies on families? These questions will be at the core of our discussion. Through a review of policy responses and initiatives, in the context of different welfare pathways and macro social contexts in times of economic crisis and its aftermath, we will assess the different arrays of policy objectives and measures, seek to understand how they respond to family change and vulnerable families, and discuss the factors which might be crucial for improving the situation of families in the future.

Karin Wall is a Research Professor in Sociology at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, and coordinator of ICS Observatory on Families and Family Policies. Her main areas of expertise are Sociology of Family and Gender and Comparative Social Policy. She has worked as a national and international expert on social policies and the evaluation of science. Recent books: O'Brien, M. & Wall, K. (2017). *Comparative perspectives on work-life balance and gender equality. Fathers on Leave Alone*. Springer; and Wall, K. et al.(2018). *Families and Personal networks. An International Comparative Perspective*, Palgrave Macmillan.