

Compatibility of family and studies



Studying with a child: For students with a child, there are various other support offers and services that make studying possible despite family life. Many universities offer counseling centers where students can obtain information and receive the best possible support.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth emphasizes how, in the context of demographic change at the latest, the topic of starting a family in apprenticeship and study situations is one of the topics of the Federal Government and how the Federal Government already set itself the goal in 2012 of creating the necessary framework conditions to support starting a family. However, studies repeatedly point to the problem of childlessness among academics.

Family-supporting universities

The non-profit Hertie Foundation established berufundfamilie gGmbH in 1998; the central offering of this gGmbH is the family-friendly university audit for polytechnics and universities. Since 2016, the gGmbH has been carrying out the entire "auditing" process, with the Hertie Foundation serving as a supervisory body. In this process, the audit serves as an instrument for implementing and further developing family-friendly working and study conditions. The goal of the process is to improve the compatibility of work/study and family. Audited universities receive a certificate, which has become an established proof of the quality of their commitment to the compatibility of work/study and family. In the process, certified universities are also supported in shaping their legal framework obligations as well as their social responsibility.



According to the results of the FAST project (Family Formation in Studies), the following are the wishes and demands of studying parents:

- providing childcare,
- family-friendly study conditions,
- financial support and
- social acceptance

The audit family-friendly university:

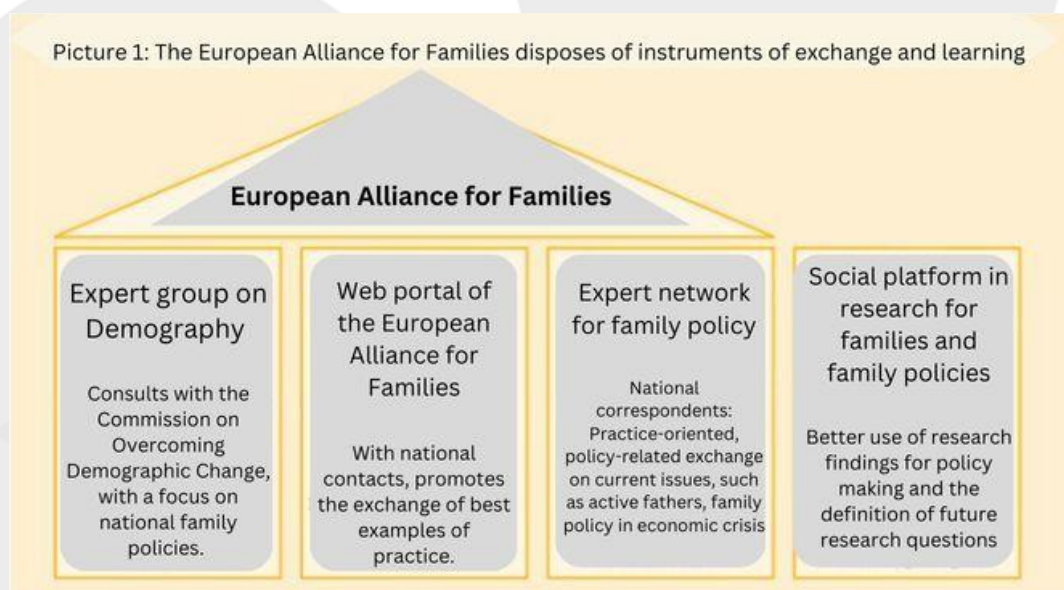
- Systematically anchors family-friendly working and study conditions in the organization, its culture, tools and communication
- ensures a high degree of pervasiveness, enables a critical review of the effectiveness of measures and the adaptation of existing measures
- integrates the family-friendly orientation into the university philosophy and strategy

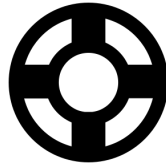
(The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens and Youth has also been certified since 2003)

The European Alliance for Families

Recognizing that most European countries are facing very similar demographic and structural challenges and that the issue of work-life balance is becoming crucial for all of them, the European Union decided in 2007 to unite the diversity of family policy strategies and their results under the umbrella of the European Alliance for Families.

Picture 1: The European Alliance for Families disposes of instruments of exchange and learning





Pioneer countries: Some countries have addressed major social changes earlier and more successfully than Germany. Northern European countries in particular have been developing childcare for several decades and have made it possible to combine family and career. Today, it can be seen that in these countries child depopulation, as well as child poverty, are less pronounced than in Germany. Many studies have been able to show conclusively (cf. Whiteford/Adema 2007; European Commission 2008) that improving the compatibility of family and work is a key to achieving central family and social policy goals.

Family supporting interventions

On the way to becoming a family-friendly university, the following family-supporting measures have already been implemented at universities in Germany:

- Audits
- Promotion of women in the field of science
- Network "Studying with a child"
- Service point for students with children
- Information material for student parents and pregnant students
- Special housing offers from the Studentenwerk for student parents
- Initial equipment subsidies such as cafeteria and counseling vouchers
- support programs in the area of childcare
- family-friendly design of work facilities in the library
- Parent-child study rooms
- Child-friendly equipment in dining halls and cafeterias
- Play and quiet corners for children
- Diaper-changing and breastfeeding facilities



STUDENTEN
FÜR
STUDENTEN

- Core hours of lectures and seminars are between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Study and examination regulations take the needs of student mothers and fathers into consideration.
- Examinations can also be taken during leave of absence



Some universities in Germany have special brochures for students with children. These usually contain information

- on the organization of studies
- financial support such as maternity allowance, parental allowance and child benefit
- financial aid from foundations or social benefits
- the services offered by the Studentenwerk
- childcare options
- about dealing with the authorities

Studenten für Studenten ist ein Projekt des Ring Christlich-Demokratischer Studenten
und des RCDS Bildungs- und Sozialwerk e.V.

Bundesgeschäftsstelle Paul-Lincke Ufer 8 b, 10999 Berlin
info@rcds.de

Inhaltlich Verantwortlicher gemäß § 5 TMG: Bundesgeschäftsführer RCDS