

## **'Traditionalizing' Effect of Parenthood: a Longitudinal Qualitative Case Study of Lithuania**

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Gender Equality Index of European Union overall has increased only by 0,6 per cent since 2019. One of the possible explanations of why the gap between women and men remains high, especially in the field of childcare, is that the gender roles and stereotypes on women's participation in the labour market is having 'a negative influence'. Parental leave policies have to be understood as having the potential to both change the position of mothers in their employment patterns and to involve fathers in childcare. Parental leave, with a non-transferable leave for fathers as its hallmark, is a new welfare-state contribution in Lithuania. Such approach to parental leave has been documented to be effective for promoting gender equal parenting practices in caring and employment. Studies have not, however, explored enough the resistance by women themselves against the non-transferable leave for their partners. This issue was investigated by means of longitudinal data of interviews with women during their pregnancy with their first child and a few months after the childbirth. The results of this novel intake to understanding the views of women show 'traditionalizing' effect. 'Are their ways to mitigating this effect?' is the question of the presentation.