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5TH PROFEEDBACK CONFERENCE

Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies

Multifaceted Family Impact Analysis in Italy: Countering inequalities by creating Family Impact Checklists to Help Professionals “Think Family”

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An introduction...

Approaches to welfare and personal services

Welfarist

Empowerment, subsidiarity, co-production, capacitation...

Need for its overcoming to be accompanied by the ability to see, in addition to the individual, **his relational network, primarily the family network**



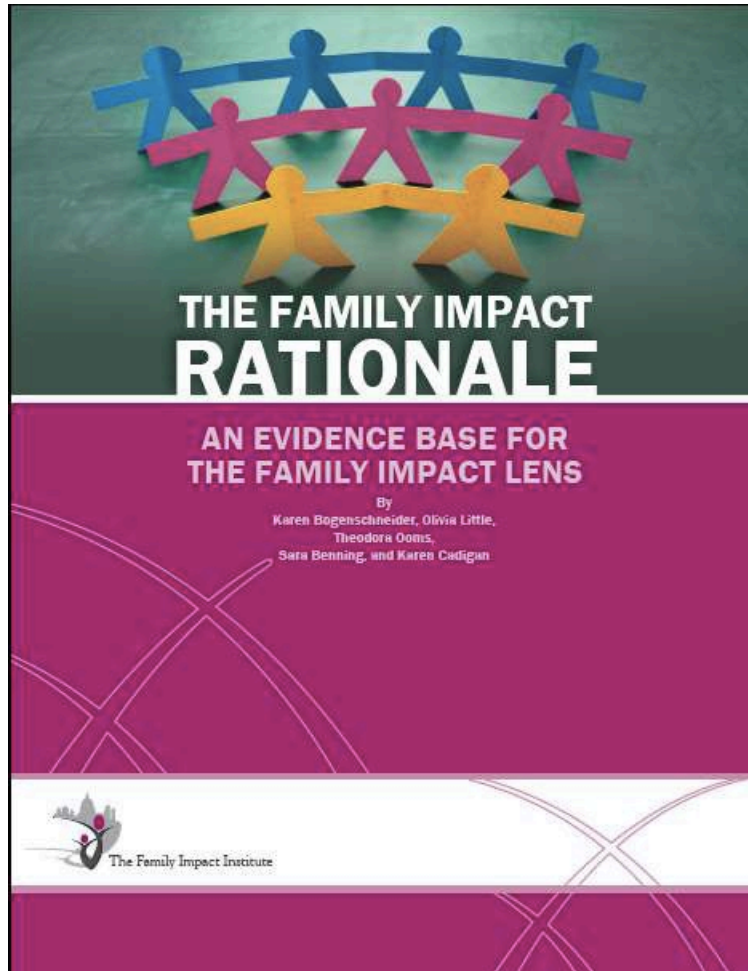
Why pay attention to the family?

- Because the effect of every policy, service, intervention falls within the network of family relationships of which individuals are part → **systemic logic**;
- If individual well-being is linked to social relationships, including family relationships → **then family-centred approaches are more effective because they involve family members**;
- If individual well-being is closely linked to the well-being of family relationships → then family-centred approaches are more effective because and when they involve family members in the intervention and promote their well-being. The well-being of the beneficiary is MEDIATED by family well-being



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II Family Impact Lens



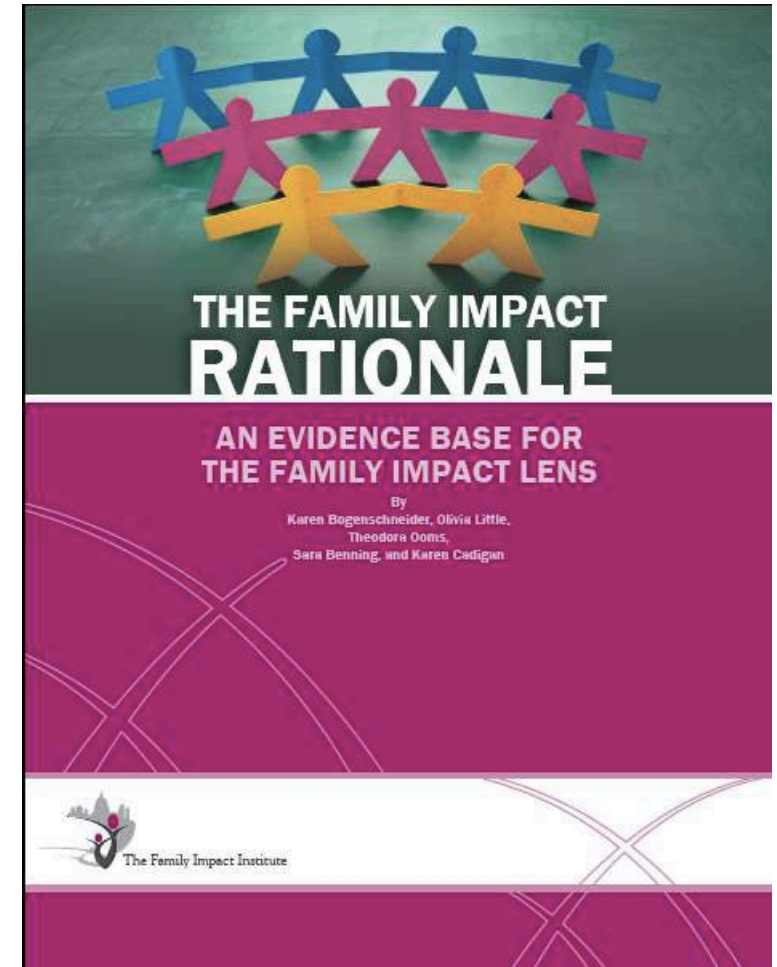
- Born in the 1980s, US scholars from the Family Impact Institute (Bogenschneider et al., 2012);
- Family impact should be used as a guiding criterion in policy and practice;
- **Evidence-based approach**: correlation between individual and family well-being;
- For some years now also in **Italy** (Belletti, Bramanti and Carrà, 2018)

Impact NOT in the strict sense : a lens, as the name suggests, that causes those who design, **implement or evaluate a policy or practice to take into account that any policy or practice has direct or indirect effects on the family relationships of its recipients**



Il Family Impact Lens

- The Family Impact Lens can counter the **individualised approach** by shifting the focus from specific problems or individual solutions to their **interconnectedness** within the family;
- It also adopts the **family life cycle** perspective, which takes into account all **family transitions** from couple formation onwards





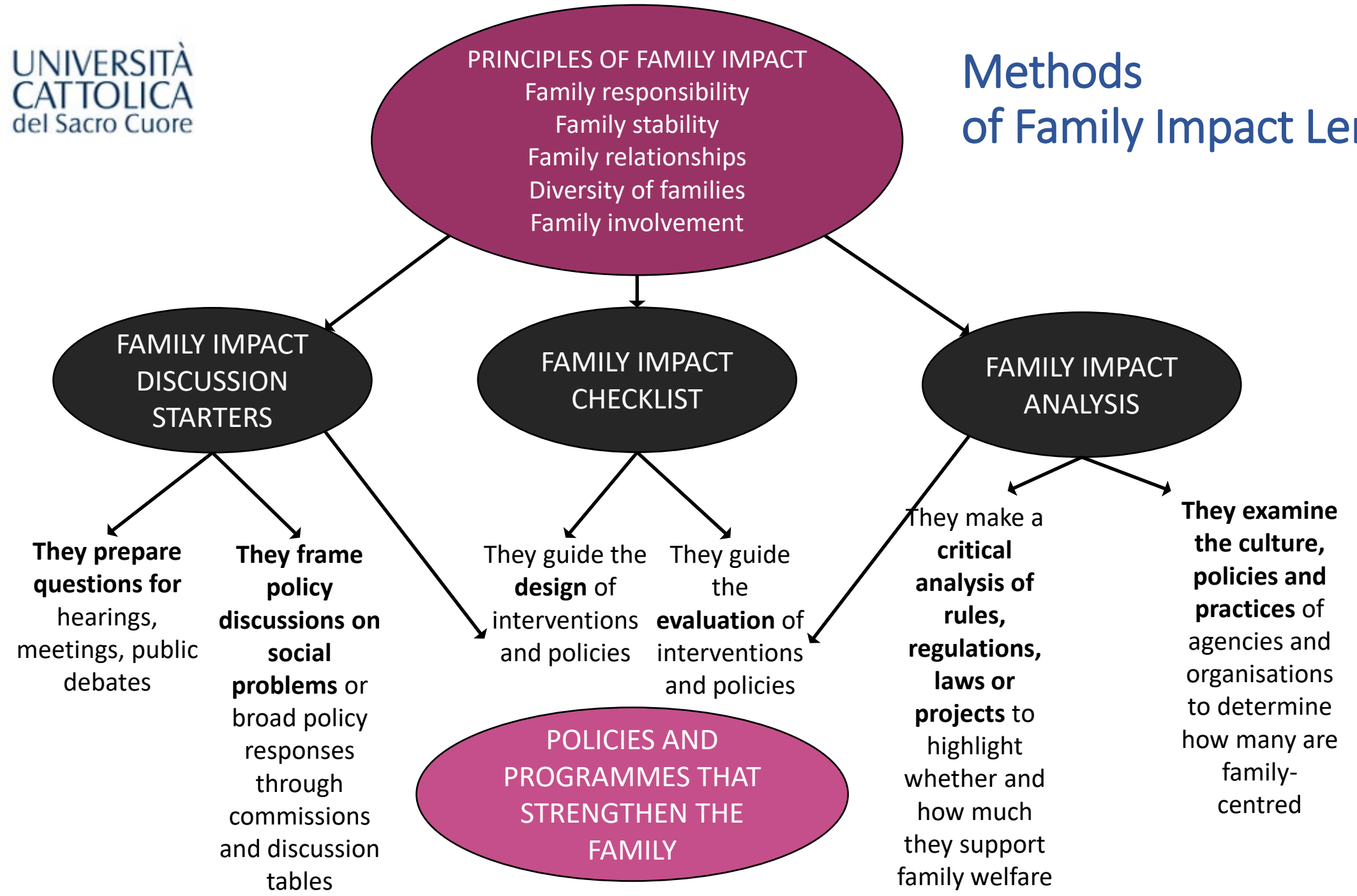
Il Family Impact Lens



- 1) Responsibility
- 2) Stability
- 3) Family Relations
- 4) Diversity
- 5) Involvement



Methods of Family Impact Lens



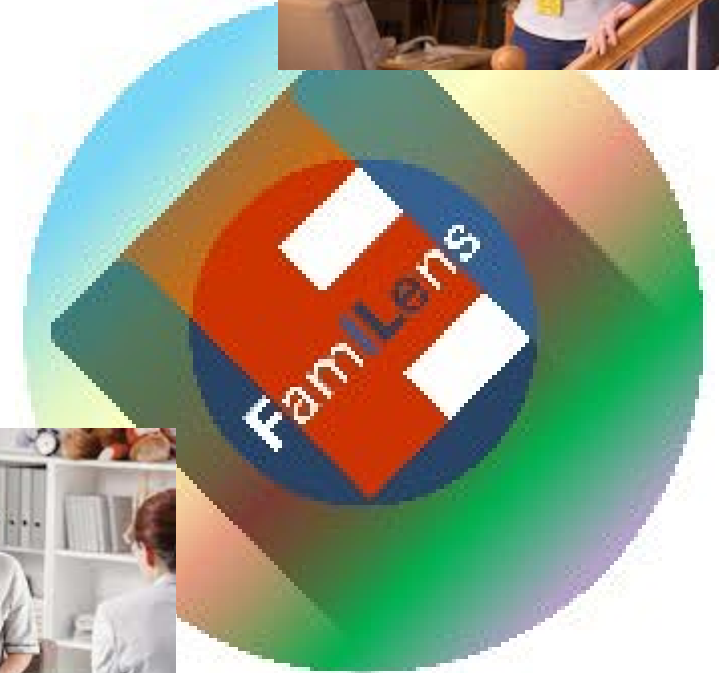


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The multifaceted FamLens project

We are adapting the framework of the family impact lens, creating checklists for four different contexts:

- 1. family mediation,
- 2. child protection services,
- 3. elderly home care,
- 4. family-work balance management.





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A Family Impact Analysis research in Italy

- Family Impact Checklist as a **metarflexive tool** for practitioners;
- Useful for **redesigning actions/interventions**;
- Promotion of a '**family-oriented**' culture, based on shared learning;
- **Active participation** of professionals in the evaluation



The co-design of the four checklist

Principle 3. Family relationships. Policies and programs must recognize the strength and persistence of family ties, whether positive or negative, and seek to create and sustain strong couple, marital, and parental relationships.

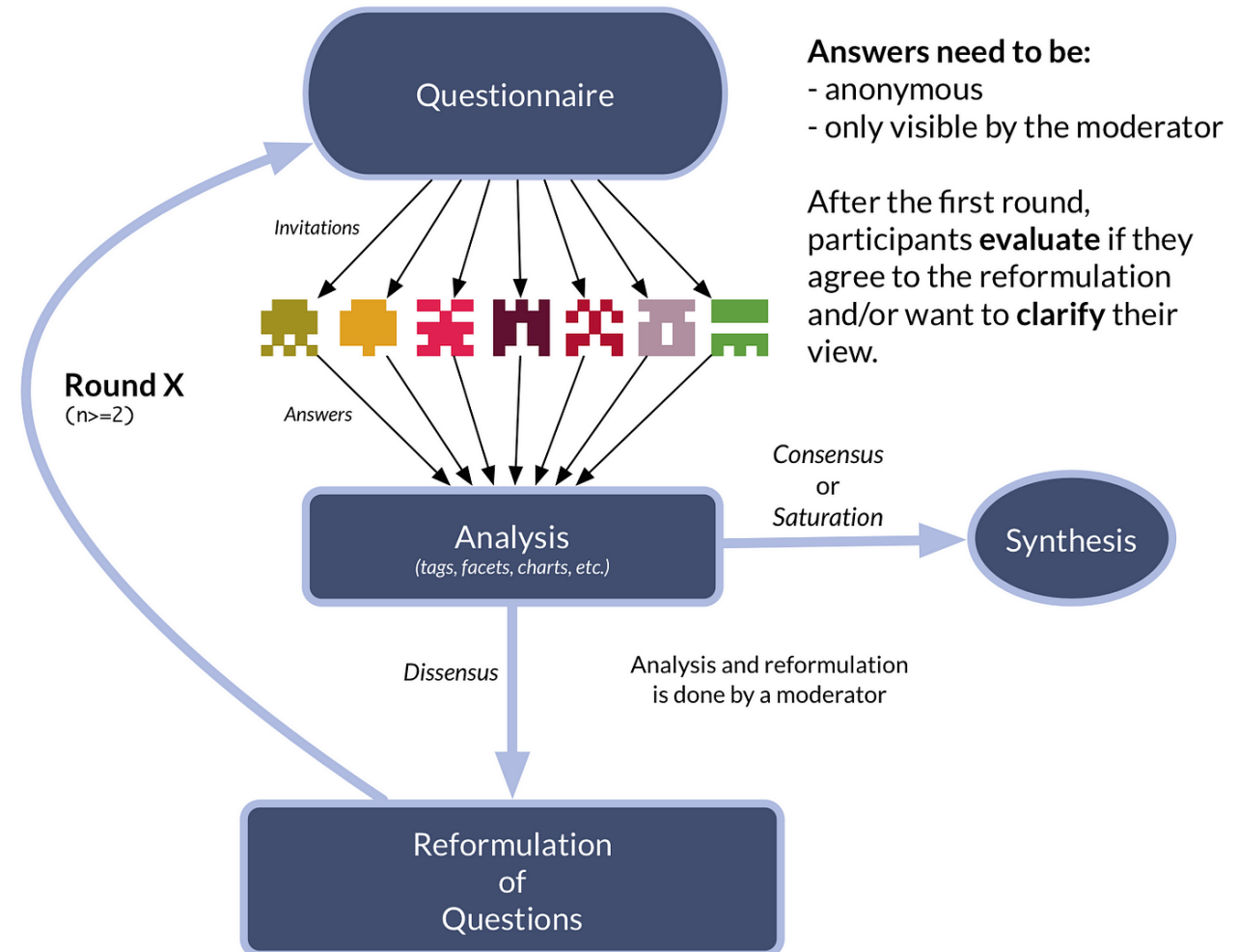
How well does the policy, program, or practice:

	Strong	Adequate	Limited	N/A	
First meeting: family impact starters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	recognize that individuals' development and well-being are profoundly affected by the quality of their relationships with close family members and family members' relationships with each other?
Second meeting: proposal of items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	involve couples, immediate family members, and extended family when appropriate in working to resolve problems, with a focus on improving family relationships?
Third meeting: selection and revision of items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	assess and balance the competing needs, rights, and interests of various family members?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	take steps to prevent family abuse, violence, or neglect?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	acknowledge how interventions and life events can affect family dynamics and, when appropriate, support the need for balancing change and stability in family roles, rules, and leadership depending upon individual expectations, cultural norms, family stress, and stage of family life?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	provide the knowledge, communication skills, conflict resolution strategies, and problem-solving abilities needed for healthy couple, marital, parental, and family relationships or link families to information and education sources?

The validation of 4 family impact checklist

The Delphi Method

- Working remotely with experts;
- Facilitating participatory processes;
- Adaptable questions (open; closed...)



Expert involved in the validation of the 4 checklist

	Expert involved round 1	Expert involved round 2	Final Checklist approved without revisions	Final Checklist approved with revisions
Family mediation	18	13	12	1
Child protection services	17	11	2	9
Elderly home care	15	14	2	13
Family work balance Management	7	7	7	1

First results of the validation of the 4 checklist

	items round 1	revisions proposed	items judged less useful	Items in final checklist
Family mediation	31	77	4	29
Child protection services	30	100	4	30
Elderly home care	29	34	5	31
Family work balance Management	36	30	7	34



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Thank you!

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