1. Title
The impact of covid-19 on paid and unpaid work in the family: an international comparison

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3. Abstract
The Covid-19 pandemic has led governments worldwide to lock down their counties for several weeks. With the aim to curb the spread of the virus, most people have had to stay at home, working from their dwelling, and schools are closed. The quarantine has created an unusual situation where all members of the family, children and adults, are constrained to be close to each other during several weeks. Parents have to combine childcare, working time, and couple life. Especially for women, who are more exposed to intrahousehold gender inequality, this situation could be a big challenge.

The closing of schools has, in practice, increased family work, the caregiving of young children, and the help needs of older children engaged in distance learning. The effects of the crisis on employed mothers are likely to be persistent, but there are possible changes of opposite direction that could in the long run reduce gender inequality in the labor market (Alon et al., 2020). First, companies are rapidly adopting flexible working arrangements, which are likely to persist at least in the medium term. Second, there are also many fathers who are forced to take direct responsibility in childcare. This increase in childcare time could in the long run erode social norms and reduce inequality in the division of domestic work and childcare.

In such a context, the current project aims at analyzing how families reacted to the covid-19 lockdown, through a cross-country perspective, and taking advantage of a web survey that we developed to collect data right in the middle of the crisis in four different countries (Spain, Italy, France, and Germany). Specifically, the project aims at analyzing household behavioural reactions in terms of housework and childcare responsibilities during the lockdown.

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4. Data description
We collect data from Spain, Italy, France and Germany, epicentres of the Covid-19 outbreak in Europe, using online surveys on volunteer respondents. We provide three main sections related to labour market participation (of the respondent and his/her partner), childcare and education, and distribution of the family duties.

The survey asks detailed information on respondents’ previous and current work arrangements and on the division of household tasks. We ask respondents to report their previous and current employment, as well as sector of employment, labor supply evolution, and hours of working from home. The survey has a section on couples’ division of main household production tasks as well as child care tasks. It collects detailed information on respondents’ background characteristics including gender, age, level of education, marital status, number of children, and partners contributions to household income.

5. JEL codes: J16, J21, J22

6. Keywords: covid-19, female employment, housework, gender norms