1 Introduction

The time use patterns of women and men, young and old, as well as low and highly qualified persons differ significantly in modern societies. This is true with regard to personal activities, but particularly so when it comes to paid and unpaid work. Therefore, the research presented here first aims to identify the socio-economic and ecological impact of these different time patterns (chapters 2 to 4). Subsequently, the study introduces the concept of a desired world, which is based on men's and women's desired work time, and estimates the associated changes in industrial and household production its implementation would cause.

The different time patterns define the starting point of the analysis. However, the combination of time use data, traditional input-output analysis, satellite accounts of household production and material balance reports also allows an analysis in monetary and physical terms, so that the demographic groups' personal activities and their roles as producers and beneficiaries of paid and unpaid work can be analysed.

Time use is clearly dominated by personal activities that include physical regeneration along with recreational and education-related activities. The activity patterns of adults are also defined by paid and unpaid work. Paid work accounts for the employment-related time used by employed and self-employed persons which consists of net (that is: paid) working hours and (unpaid) time used for travel to and from the place of employment. Unpaid work includes all activities that could, in principle, be delegated to someone else.

In monetary terms, net paid work adds up to the gross domestic product (GDP). The monetary value of unpaid work defines household production. Personal activities and time used for education-related activities are not assessed in this context.

The assignment of physical flows to the different categories is based on material balance reports. Thus, physical flows comprise natural resources used as input to activities and residuals discharged into the environment. For the sake of clarity, the presented work will focus on CO_2 emissions that can be assigned to personal activities and on production and consumption patterns.

The next step deals with the identification of the beneficiaries of paid and unpaid work. The distribution of working time, monetary values and emissions related to the production of goods and services among the beneficiaries is performed as a socio-economic input-output analysis. The distribution of private non-market services in particular relies on census data.

The identification of gender- and generation-specific production and consumption patterns enables the modelling of gender- and generation-dependencies. The resulting model shows, for example, to which extent women benefit from women's and men's work respectively or how much time is spent on young people by senior citizens and vice versa.

Gender-dependencies are currently characterised by an unequal distribution of work. While men clearly dominate professional work, the share of women is particularly high in unpaid work. In order to improve women's perspectives in the case of

professional careers, many concepts suggest increasing women's average paid working hours up to the men's level and the delegation of unpaid work, particularly private care services, to other persons or institutions. Alternately, the concept of the part-time society (Schaffer and Stahmer 2005, 2006c) suggests closing the gender gap by significantly reducing men's paid working hours approximately to the level of women's schedules.

Both alternatives prioritise narrowing the gap. However, the question of whether men and women really wish to adjust their work patterns remains unanswered. In order to account for peoples' wishes, the study at hand then outlines the so-called desired world. This concept, which is based on men's and women's desired working time as determined by the German Socio-Economic Panel, suggests a general reduction of individual work time for currently employed persons and the hiring of approximately 2.8 million new employees.