

As we enter into a period in which many of us seek a bit of extra balance in our work and private lives, just a brief update from the CAPABLE team on what we've been up to these past six months.

We have broadened the CAPABLE team in recent months. Three PhD students have been hired who will be starting in the coming months: Samuel Briones, Carla Brega and Mehri Zamanbin. We look forward to having them on board! The CAPABLE team is now also supported by Dr Katharina Meitinger (methodological expert), Dr Robin Buning (project assistant) and Hannelore van Hoffen (student assistant). Clarissa Skinner also provided research assistance in April and May.

The research assistance was welcome, as the data collection is now underway! Our national experts are working on completing the questionnaires for the 8-country policy study, and some of the first results of this sub-project will be presented at the International Leave Network meeting in Hamburg this August. Data collection for the Dutch in-depth case study is also moving forward, with discussions with local stakeholders taking place in Amsterdam and Nijmegen and focus groups being scheduled for the fall.

We have also been busy presenting and discussing the CAPABLE project with multiple audiences. Mara Yerkes (PI) travelled to Los Angeles as a visiting fellow at the World Policy Analysis Center, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She gave an invited talk about the ERC project in their Sustainable Development Goals seminar series on January 9th. While in the US, Mara also traveled to Irvine, California, where she was invited to give a talk at the Center for Demographic and Social Analysis. She met with CAPABLE advisory board member Prof. Judy Treas, and met with several of Prof. Treas' colleagues to discuss the CAPABLE project. Most recently, Mara traveled to Nottingham, UK to present the CAPABLE project to staff and students in a joint invited seminar from the Identities, Citizenship, Equalities and Migration Centre and the International Centre for Public and Social Policy. The slides from this presentation are available [here](#).

Thanks to Robin, the CAPABLE website ([worklifecapabilities.com](http://worklifecapabilities.com)) is up and running. You can sign up to receive news updates by [joining our mailing list](#). You can also follow us on social media: our Twitter ([@ERC\\_Capable](https://twitter.com/ERC_Capable)) and LinkedIn sites are online: ([www.linkedin.com/company/erc-capable](http://www.linkedin.com/company/erc-capable)).

After a great start to the project, we are all looking forward to the coming months. But first, a bit of rest. Mara will be offline until late July, at which point Robin will have some well-earned time off. During Mara's absence, any project-related enquiries can be sent to Robin Buning: [assistantcapable@uu.nl](mailto:assistantcapable@uu.nl). After 25 July, Mara will be back online.

Best wishes for a great summer,

The CAPABLE team