



Implementing Flexible Work Policy

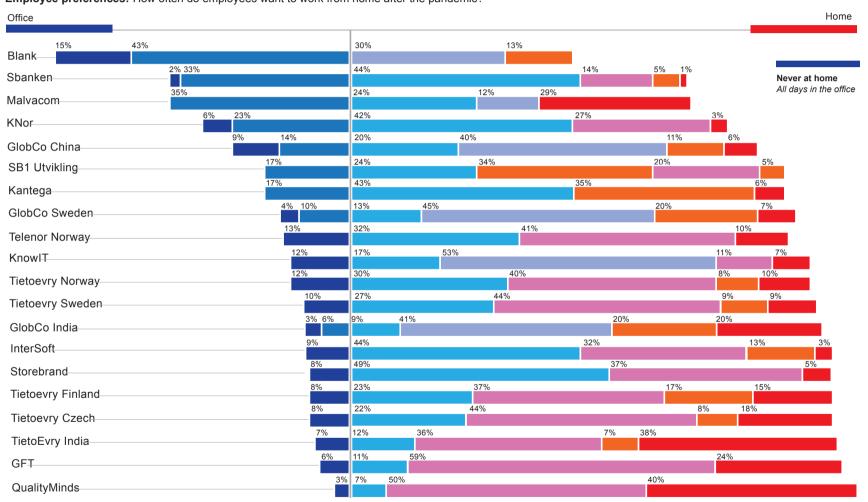
Aligning Actions and Intentions

Darja Šmite

Professor of Software Engineering at BTH | Part-time senior researcher at SINTEF (Norway) Leading expert in globally distributed development, outsourcing, as well as remote and hybrid work

Preferences for work location





Occasionally from home. Occasionally at home; Sometimes at home; 1 day here and there at home; Parts of the day; 1-4 days/month; Less than 1 day/week Less than half week 1 day/week from home; Most days in the office but 1-2 days/week at home; 2 days/week

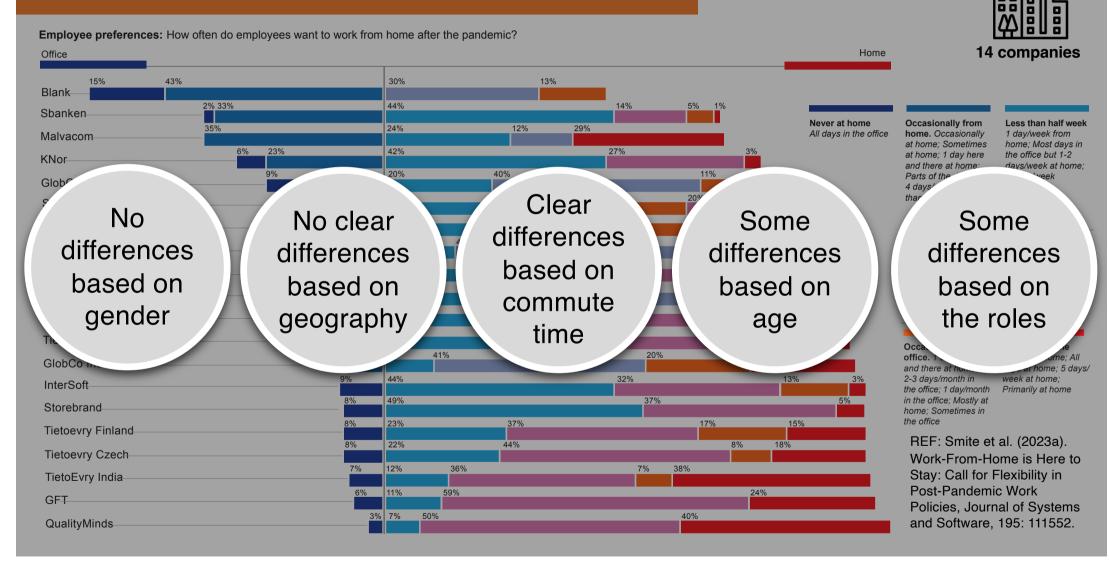
Half the time 50:50; Equally much in the office as at home: 2-3 days/week More than half week 2 days/week; 4 days a week from home; Once a week or so in the office

Occasionally in the office. 1 day here and there at home; 2-3 days/month in the office; 1 day/month in the office; Mostly at home; Sometimes in the office

Always at home Always at home; All days at home; 5 days/ week at home; Primarily at home

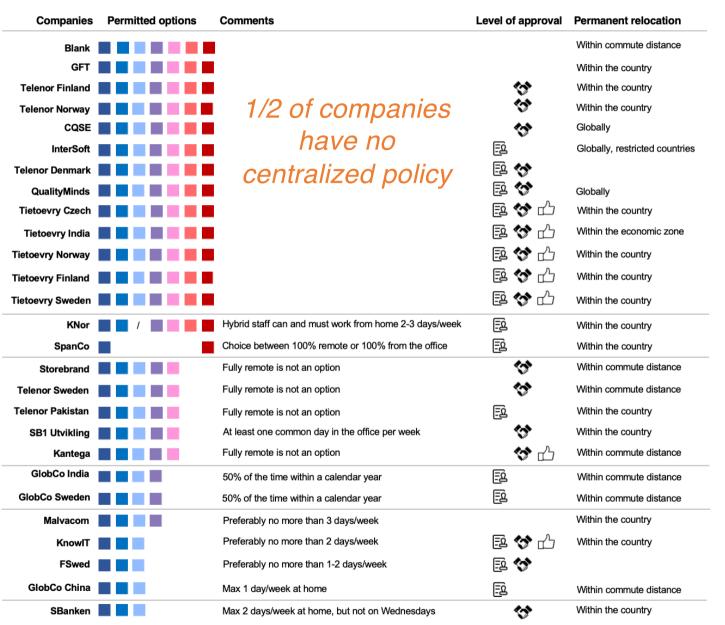
REF: Smite et al. (2023a). Work-From-Home is Here to Stay: Call for Flexibility in Post-Pandemic Work Policies, Journal of Systems and Software, 195: 111552.

Preferences for work location









Never at home

All days in the office

Occasionally from home

Occasionally at home; Sometimes at home; 1 day here and there at home; Parts of the day;1-4 days/month; Less than 1 day/week

Less than half week

1 day/week from home; Most days in the office but 1-2 days/week at home; 2 days / week

Half the time

50:50; Equally much in the office as at home; 2-3 days/week

More than half week

3 days/week; 4 days a week from home; Once a week or so in the office

Occasionally in the office

1 day here and there at home; 2-3 days/month in the office; 1 day/month in the office; Almost always from home; Mostly at home, Sometimes in the office

Always at home

Always at home; All days at home; 5 days/week at home; Primarily at home

Required approval for WFH



Agreement in a work unit



Different strategies

Office-based

Office presence demanded Remote not allowed

- Force office days
- Return to the old use of the office space

Office-first

Office presence encouraged, Remote allowed

- Attract people back
- Improve office space with some of the benefits of home office
- · Ensure superb cafeteria
- Subsidize commute
- · Ensure free parking

Hybrid

Fully flexible office presence, Remote friendly

- Introduce hot desking and desk booking
- Transform individual offices into collaboration spaces and meeting rooms
- Potentially downsize the office space

Remote-first

Office presence is bookable
Remote encouraged

- Downsize the office space
- Institutionalize asynchronous communication and decision-making

All remote

No office presence

Remote demanded

- Abandon offices
- · Recruit on a distance
- Institutionalize asynchronous communication and decision-making

Recap of what happened in the last 2 years



Flexibility has turned from a privilege to a personal right

Many offices remained half-empty even after the reopenning

First experiences showed that hybrid working is not always remote friendly and teamwork suffers

Some companies introduced mandatory presence





Office presence is encouraged Remote-friendly. Remote work is allowed 2-3 days/week

Office presence is encouraged Remote-friendly. Remote work is allowed 50%/year

Office presence is encouraged Remote-friendly. Flexible work, but fully remote is not an option

EXAMPLE

| | Presence | Policies | Announcements | Actions |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| A | Quite stable, 46% (average) | [Hybrid]: New work policy is remote-friendly, teams (not individuals) decide. | Office-first: Office presence is encouraged, Office is the main place of work, some tasks require presence | [Support for office work]: Cozy WFH zones, better canteen.[Support for hybrid work]: Free seating, no personalized desks at the office.[Support for remote work]: Free parking and electrical charging stations were cancelled. |

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| В | Recently increased from 34% to 47% (average) | during a calen- | Office-first: Office presence is encouraged; Office is the center of innovation, learning and driving the culture [Hybrid]: Flexibility is here to stay; we will offer that. | [Support for office work]: Onsite events. [Support for hybrid work]: Hybrid-friendly meeting rooms. |

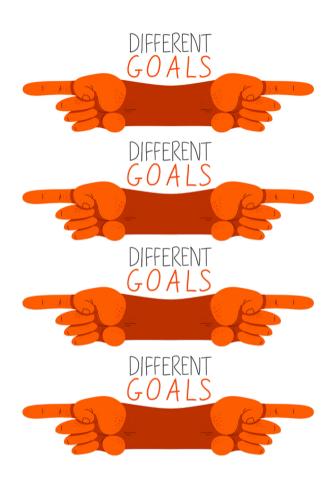
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| В | Recently increased from 34% to 47% (average) | during a calen- | [Office-first]: Office presence is encouraged; Office is the center of innovation, learning and driving the culture [Hybrid]: Flexibility is here to stay; we will offer that. | [Support for office work]: Onsite events. [Support for hybrid work]: Hybrid-friendly meeting rooms. [Support for remote work]: Free parking deal and electrical charging stations were cancelled. Ongoing and planned downsizing projects. |
| С | Quite stable, 55% (average) | [Hybrid]: Fully remote is not an option, teams decide on the rhythm. | Office-first: Office is encouraged; Office is our base; Presence is needed for coincidental encounters. Our strategy is teambased flexibility with office as the core. [Hybrid]: Getting people back is not the goal. We aim to facilitate inclusive hybrid working. | [Support for office work]: Onsite events, courses, sports activities. [Support for hybrid work]: Hybrid-friendly meeting rooms. Financial support for the home office |

Increase office presence

Increase office presence

Increase office presence

Satisfy individual needs



Cut the office space

Removing free parking

Keep individuals satisfied

Satisfy team needs

Finding the right balance



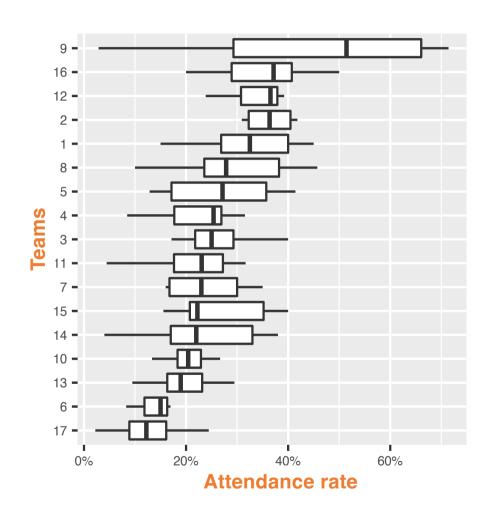
REF: Tkalich A, Šmite D, Andersen NH, Moe NB. What happens to psychological safety when going remote?. IEEE Software. 2022 Dec.

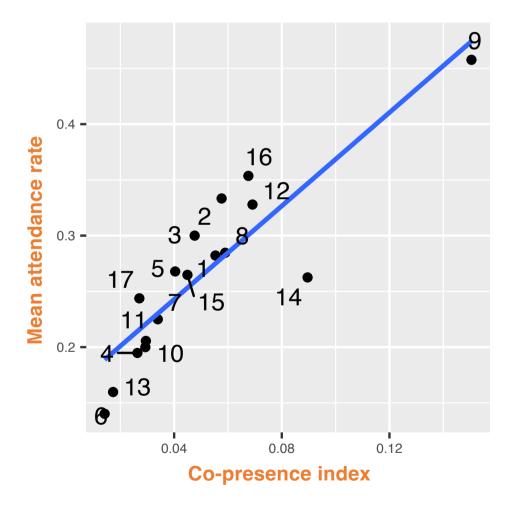


Office presence is encouraged Remote-friendly. Remote work is allowed 2-3 days/week

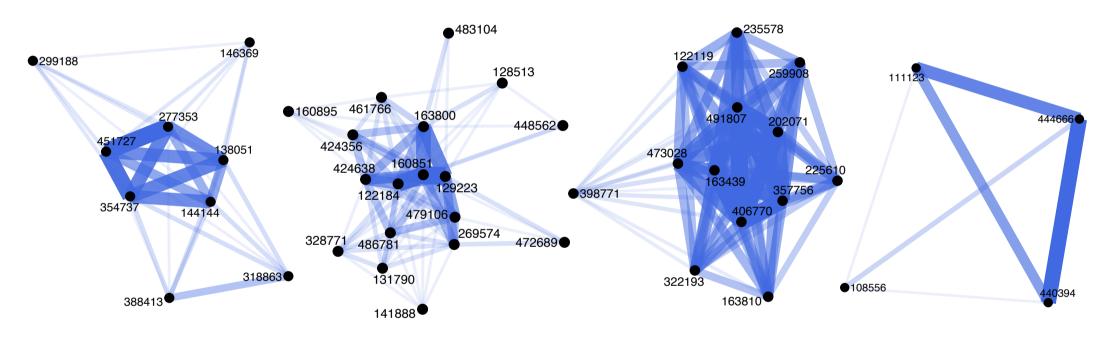
EXAMPLE

Focus on teams





Co-presence



Mean weekly team attendance rate of 33%

Mean weekly team attendance rate of 16%

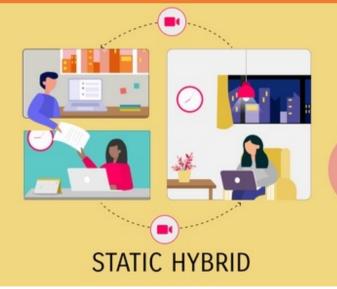
Mean weekly team attendance rate of 51%

Mean weekly team attendance rate of 22%

Mean attendance rate does not portray co-presence or ensure collaboration



Work arrangements in post-pandemic times









Motivate co-presence & co-absence



Development Team's Calendar



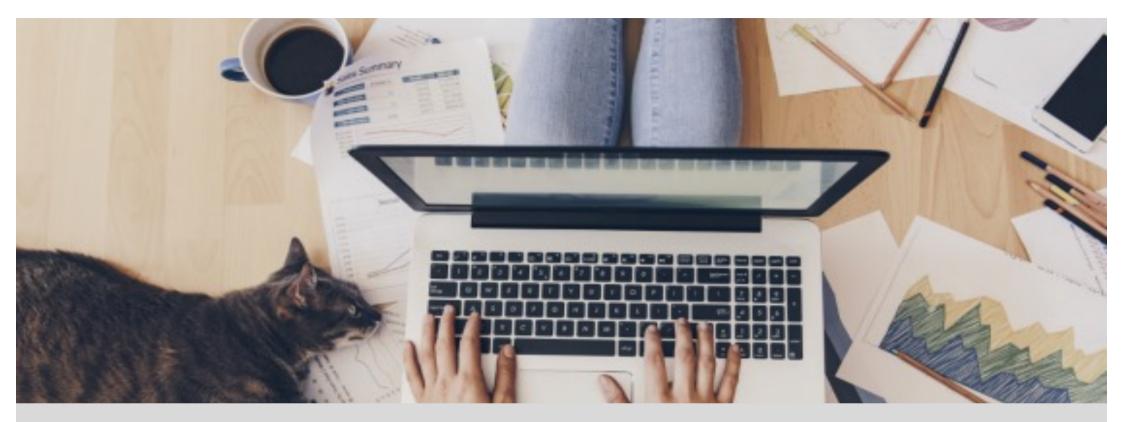














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