

**Policy Department
Economic and Scientific Policy**

The Cost of Childcare in EU Countries

(IP/A/EMPL/FWC/SC/2006-05/SC1)

Country Reports

Part 2 of 2

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PART TWO - Country Reports

The data included in the country reports were collected according to the following common grid.

Summary (a short description of the case) _____

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (year of reference)		
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>		
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>		
<i>of which aged <6</i>		
Total fertility rate (year of reference) (*)		
School entry age		
Poverty rate for children		
Children in single-mother families		

(*)The mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the fertility rates by age of a given year. It is therefore the completed fertility of a hypothetical generation, computed by adding the fertility rates by age for women in a given year (the number of women at each age is assumed to be the same). The total fertility rate is also used to indicate the replacement level fertility; in more developed countries, a rate of 2.1 is considered to be replacement level. Source: Eurostat

Women's participation in the labour market (year of reference)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate				
Female employment rate				
<i>of which part time</i>				
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003) (*)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% of GDP
Cash allowances		
Care services		
Total		

(*)Public expenditure that includes "Support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with the costs of pregnancy, childbirth and adoption, bringing up children and caring for other family members" Source: Eurostat 2006, p.56]

Cash allowances description

	Name of Allowance 1	Name of Allowance 2	Name of Allowance 3
Entitlement			
Duration			
Amount			
Institutional level			
Coverage			

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access		
Content		
Age range		
Institutional level		
Opening hours		
Coverage 1990		
Coverage 2002/3		
Unsatisfied demand		

Parental leaves

	Maternity leave (*)	Parental leave (**)	Paternity leave (**)
Duration			
Replacement rate			
Entitlement			
Budget			

(*) Leave linked to birth giving reserved for the mother. In some systems there are extensions linked to breastfeeding

(**) “Leave granted to fathers and mothers during a period after the termination of maternity leave to enable parents in employment to look after their newborn child for a certain time, whilst giving them some degree of security in respect of employment, social security and remuneration [...]. Parental leave is also granted to adoptive parents” (ILO; European Commission 1983; Council of Europe 2005, p.10)

(**) Leave usually covering a short period after birth and reserved for fathers.

1. Austria

Summary: Bismarckian welfare state, with universal generous cash benefits, generous parental leaves for insured parents, high kindergarten coverage (but < 100%), low crèches coverage (<10%).

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	8,206,524	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	238,540	2.9
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	240,610	2.9
<i>of which aged <6</i>	479,150	5.8
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.41	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		7.8
Children in single-mother families*		13.4

Sources: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	54.8	79.9	23.5	65.6
Female employment rate	49.4	76.0	22.9	62.0
of which part time				39.3
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	673.1	2.6
Care services	131.6	0.5
Total	804.7	3.1

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Family allowance (Familienbeihilfe)	Early education and care benefit (Familienbeihilfe)	Early education and care subsidy
Entitlement	Parents are universally entitled for children who belong to their households or for whom they predominantly pay child support (It may also apply to grand-parents, adoptive or foster parents and the child him/herself under certain conditions). Children residing abroad are excluded.	All parents who have children (including foster and adopted) born after 1/2002, as a recognition and partial compensation for care and early education provided, regardless of employment and insurance Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entitlement to Child benefit; • living in the same household as the child; • earnings of the parent receiving the benefit below € 14,600/year • program of medical examinations of the pregnant woman and the child; • residence in Austria. It is possible to receive unemployment benefit during and after child-raising allowance.	All parents requiring institutional care because they are in work or training
Duration	Until children are <18 (<26 if they are on training; < 21 if job seeking; no age limits for children with earning incapacity). Children > with own income above € 8,725/year are excluded.	30 months; 36 months if both parents share care duties	
Amount	Depends on age and number of children. Age € per child/month 0-2 105.40 3-9 112.70 10-18 130.90 19 onwards 152.70 Supplement for families with 2 children: €12.80/month. Supplement for families with 3 children: €25.50/month Supplement for families with severely handicapped children: € 138.30/month. Supplement for families with 3 or more children: € 36.40 (means-tested: family income limit, 2006: €45,000)	€14.53/day (€436/month). Additional € 181/month for low-income parents and low-income single parents (means-tested)	Depends on household's gross income and cost of care

Sources: Austrian background report for OECD Starting Strong (2004)
OECD (2006) Starting Strong II.
MISSOC (2006 tables)

Care service description

	<i>Krippen</i> (crèches)	<i>Tagesmütter</i> (childminders)	Kindergarten
Entitlement/access	No legal entitlement		No legal entitlement
Content	Care, socialization		Care, socialization and early education
Age range	0-2		3-5 year
Institutional level	70% local authorities (primarily municipalities). The rest: parishes, non profit associations, companies, private persons.		
Opening hours	Generally all day		58.9% all day
Coverage 1990			
Coverage 2002/3	8.9%		81.7% of all children 81.6 of all 3-year-olds 88.4 of all 4-year-olds 93.6 of all 5-year-olds 98% of children 3-5 with working mother
Unsatisfied demand	7.2%		2.4%

Sources: Austrian Background Report on the OECD Project "Starting Strong", 2004, p. 132
OECD (2006) Starting Strong II.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks (8 before and 8 after birth)	Until 2 years of age (at least 3 months)	No statutory paternity leave; may be provided by collective agreement (1 or 2 days financed by employer)
Replacement rate	100%	€ 436/month Early education and care benefit (see above)	
Entitlement	Insured women	Salaried employees	
Budget	Health Insurance	Unemployment insurance	

Sources: Austrian Background Report on the OECD Project "Starting Strong", 2004
OECD (2006) Starting Strong II.

ILO, Maternity Protection database, available on line at <http://www.ilo.org/travaildatabase/servlet/maternityprotection>

2. Belgium

Summary: Bismarckian welfare state, sharing some similarities with France but displaying important differences between the Flemish and French communities. Generous cash benefits and average parental leaves. Universal coverage of kindergartens; better coverage for children below 3 years of age in the Flemish community. Importance of regulated individual care (organised childminders).

Demographic framework (Belgium total)

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	10,445,852	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	342,340	3.3
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	348,438	3.3
<i>of which aged <6</i>	690,778	6.6
Total fertility rate (2004, Belgium total)	1.64	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		6.7
Children in single-mother families*		10.6

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005; Belgium total)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	32.3	76.8	23.4	59.5
Female employment rate	25.2	70.4	22.1	53.8
<i>of which part time</i>				40.5
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				2.1

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (Belgium total, 2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	461.1	1.8
Care services	94.1	0.4
Total	555.1	2.2

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Family allowance	Birth grant
Entitlement	Parents or guardians active in the labour market (compulsory insurance) of children aged <18 (o 25 if in education)	All parents
Amount	Flat rate (€/month): 1 st child: €77.05 2 nd child: €142.58 3 rd child and subsequent children: €212.87 Supplements are provided depending on the age of the children. Supplementary allowance for children with disabilities under the age of 21.	€1,043.93 for first birth; € 785.43 for second and each subsequent birth. Adoption grant: €1,043.93
Institutional level	State	State

Source: MISSOC 2006

Care service description FLANDERS

	Centre-based and Home-based day-care centres	Pre-school
Entitlement/access	No statutory entitlement. Priority to low-income, single-parent, deprived, migrant families.	Statutory entitlement
Age range	3-36 months 0-3 years	2.5-6 years
Content	Care, with attention to pedagogical quality	Pre-primary education, harmonious development of children's emotional and social potential
Institutional level	Some are recognised and subsidised by the Minister of Welfare, Health and Equal Opportunities of the Flemish Community; Private ones are either reported and under supervision or only reported.	Ministry of Education of the Flemish Community.
Opening hours	10-12 hours/day	6 hours/day with lunch break
Coverage	34.2% 0-3; 31% 0-1; 42% 1-2; 32% 2-3.	90% at 2.5 years reaching nearly 100% from age 3

Sources: Belgian Flemish Community Background Report for OECD Starting Strong.
OECD, Starting Strong II, 2006, p.76

Care service description FRENCH COMMUNITY

	Crèches and day care centres	Gardiennes encadrées (childminders)	Ecoles Maternelles
Entitlement/access			Universal right in practice
Age range	0-3		3-6
Content	Care, psycho-pedagogical development, socialization	Care	Care and early education
Institutional level	Mixed public-private, with strictly supervising licensing		
Opening hours	10-12 hours/day		Half day (after-school care available if needed)
Coverage 2005	18% for 0-3 12% for 0-1 21.5% for 1-3	12% of 0-2.5 years	90% at 2.5 100% at 3

Sources: OECD (2006) Starting Strong II.

OECD (2006) Starting Strong II, Belgium French Community Annex

Parental leaves FLANDERS

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	15 weeks	Three months per parent (6 months part time)	a) 3-4 days b) possible career break)
Replacement rate	60% of the gross salary prior to being unemployed, up to a ceiling, and a complementary indemnity of 19.5% for the first 30 days and of 15%, for the remaining period	Flat rate benefit (€ 671.52/month if full-time; € 335.75 for part time (1/2) under 50 years of age or 569.52 from 50 years of age; € 113.90 under 50 years of age or € 227.81 from 50 years of age for a working time reduced by a 1/5.	a) 100% b) €305/month + supplement paid by the Flemish Community
Entitlement	Insured (Workers, incapacitated and unemployed)	1 year of employment by the same employer within the previous fifteen months preceding.	

Sources: OECD (2001) Starting Strong.

ILO online

Parental leaves FRENCH COMMUNITY

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	15 weeks	Three months per parent (6 months part time)	10 days
Replacement rate	Employed: 82% for the first 30 days and 79.5% (up to a ceiling) thereafter; Unemployed: 60% of salary prior to unemployment (up to a ceiling) and a complementary indemnity of 19.5% for the first 30 days and of 15%, for the remaining period	Flat rate benefit (€671.52 /month if full-time; € 335.75 for part time (1/2) under 50 years of age or €569.52 from 50 years of age; €113.90 under 50 years of age or € 227.81 from 50 years of age for a working time reduced by a 1/5.	n.a.
Entitlement	Insured (Workers, incapacitated and unemployed)	1 year of employment by the same employer within the previous fifteen months preceding.	n.a.

Source: ILO Online

3. Cyprus

Summary: average female employment, cash benefits expenditure. Scant information available about services; unpaid parental leaves and absence of paternity leave reduce possibility of fathers' take-up.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	749,175	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	24,190	3.2
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	25,481	3.4
<i>of which aged <6</i>	49,671	6.6
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.42	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children		n.a
Children in single-mother families		n.a

Source: Eurostat

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	39.0	76.5	32.8	62.5
Female employment rate	33.2	72.2	31.5	58.4
<i>of which part time</i>				14.0
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				n.a.

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2002)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	196.9	1.1
Care services	30.8	0.2
Total	227.7	1.3

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Maternity Grant	Child benefit	Mother's allowance
Entitlement	Mother's or husband's insurance (minimum insurance period 26 weeks)	Until 2002: families having at least four dependent children From 1.1.2003: all families with children and income below €35,000.	mothers with four dependent children who were not eligible for child benefit when this benefit was introduced in 1988 because their children were adults
Amount	€360 (2003)	Tax allowance	n.a.
Institutional level	State	State	State

Source: Pashardes 2003, pp.25-26

N.b.: "A basic child benefit is payable to families with children irrespective of number and without any means test. Families with low incomes receive additional benefit, which varies with the family's income. For families with four or more children the child benefit is higher than for other families. The amount of child benefit is indexed to the consumer price index". Republic of Cyprus (2006), p.17

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access		n.a.
Age range	0-3	n.a.
Content		n.a.
Institutional level	679 centres (253 public, 113 community and 313 private)	n.a.
Coverage	18%	n.a.

Source: Republic of Cyprus (2006), p.21

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks	13 weeks	n.a.
Replacement rate	75%-100% depending on the presence of dependants in the family	unpaid	n.a.
Entitlement	26 weeks of work and insurance (employees and self employed)	6 months continuous work	n.a.

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.22, 29.

Council of Europe on line

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/esc/5_survey_by_country/Cyprus_Factsheet_2005.asp

Government of Cyprus, Department for Social Insurance

[http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sid.nsf/All/5074C03DF52610E0C2256DCC004FB781/\\$file/Guide-Maternity%20Allowance%20Y2006.doc](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sid/sid.nsf/All/5074C03DF52610E0C2256DCC004FB781/$file/Guide-Maternity%20Allowance%20Y2006.doc)

Pashardes 2003, pp.25-26

4. Czech Republic

Summary: Eastern country, high coverage of kindergartens (but <100%), average coverage of crèches, that dropped after transition to capitalism and then increased again. Fairly generous parental leaves, flexible use (parents can work part-time and children can be placed in crèche).

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	10,220,577	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	284,657	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	269,357	2.6
<i>of which aged <6</i>	554,014	5.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.28	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		6.6
Children in single-mother families*		10.0

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1996)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	28.9	81.6	32.9	62.4
Female employment rate	23.4	74.0	30.9	56.3
<i>of which part time</i>				8.6
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				39.2

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	188.3	1.3
Care services	31.6	0.2
Total	219.9	1.5

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Child allowance	Parental benefit
Entitlement	Child < 15 (26 if in full-time education, vocational training or disabled). Means tested: family income under 3 times Minimum Living Standard.	Parents taking care of children under 4 (7 if disabled) full or part-time. Working parents, if children attend a pre-school institution (up to 5 days/month if aged <3, up to 4 hours/day if aged 4**).
Amount	€month (rate variations based on income) Age Increased Basic Reduced < 6 19 17 8 6-10 21 19 9 10-15 26 22 11 15-26 28 24 12	1.54 * MLS (the allowance equals about half the minimum wage in 2004). Flat rate € 121/month** (see also "parental leaves").

Sources: * OECD <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/53/36219135.pdf>,

** Moss, O' Brien (2006).

MISSOC 2006

Care services description

	Crèche	<i>Materska skola</i> (Kindergarten)
Entitlement/access		
Age range	6 months – 3 years	3-6 years
Content		
Institutional level	Ministry of Health and Care. Usually private, exceptionally municipal.	
Opening hours		96% structures full time
Coverage 1999-2000	“very few” (OECD 2006) (it was 20% in 1989; The number of crèches was drastically reduced after ‘89).	85.5% (it was 97-99% between ‘84-‘88) 3 years: 66.5% 4 years: 89% 5 years: 98.4% 6 years: 85.5%
2003-2004	26.0%*	88.7%* (76% from age 3; 98% at 5-6 years OECD**)

Sources: Ministry of Education of Czech Rep, (2000)

* <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/53/36219135.pdf>

** OECD (2006) Starting Strong II, p.76

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	28 weeks (6-8 before birth and 20-22 after birth)	Up to 3 years	No general statutory entitlement.
Replacement rate	69% of gross daily wage with ceiling (€20)	Flat rate €121/month. Only one parent is entitled to the benefit.	
Entitlement	Salaried, self-employed women, students. 270 days of contribution in the last 2 years.	The parent receiving the benefit can work, full or part-time. The child can be placed in crèche or kindergarten up to 4 hours/day.	
Gender equality		Men = 1.45% of recipients (2005)	

Sources: OECD (2001) Starting Strong; Council of Europe 2005, p.29;

ILO online; Moss, O’ Brien (2006)

5. Denmark

Summary: Nordic welfare, big spender. High female employment and fertility rate. Very small difference in employment between women with and without children. High coverage of out-of-home care for children 3-5 year olds (but <100%) and comparatively high coverage for children <3, but with an important role of childminders. Generous parental leaves with high replacement rates, favouring fathers' take-up.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	5,411,405	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	194,434	3.6
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	200,682	3.7
<i>of which aged <6</i>	395,116	7.3
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.80	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children*		5.0
Children in single-mother families*		14.4

Source: Eurostat

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	66.2	84.5	56.8	75.9
Female employment rate	60.5	80.6	53.5	71.9
<i>of which part time</i>				33.0
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				1.6

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	427.6	1.6
Care services	615.7	2.3
Total	1043.3	3.9

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Family support	Single parent allowance
Entitlement	All tax liable parents with children below 18 living in Denmark.	Single parents
Amount 2005	0-2 years: €152/month 3-6 years: €138/month 7-17 years: €108/month	€568
Institutional level	State	State

Sources: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation:
http://www.workindenmark.dk/Family_support_work

MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Childminders	Crèche	Kindergarten	Age-integrated facilities
Entitlement/access		Objective: equal access and elimination of waiting lists. Priority to 1-5 year olds. Guaranteed places in 87% of Municipalities.		
Age range		6 months-2 years	3-5 years	6 months-6 years
Content		Development, education, socialization, care		
Institutional level		Municipal (70%)		
Coverage (1999)	41% <2 6% 3-5	10% <2 1% 3-5	1% <2 51% 3-5	12% <2; 31% 3-5
	64% of 0-2; 89% of 3-5*			
* plus 1% in school-based leisure time facilities Private facilities account for 1% of all children in day-care facilities.				

Source: Denmark Background Report for OECD Starting Strong (2000)

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	18 weeks (4 weeks before and 14 after birth)	32 weeks, can be prolonged up to 40 (46 for employees), but the total amount of payment does not increase.*	a) 2 weeks b) further 2 'use-or-lose' weeks of parental leave
Replacement rate	100% for most mothers, with ceiling (€ 431/week*)	100% earnings with ceiling or 60% unemployment benefit	a) Generally 100% earnings. b) 100% earnings or 60% unemployment benefit
Entitlement	Employees: 120 hours of work in the 13 weeks before paid leave. Self-employed: 6 months over the last 12.		
Gender equality	93% of children born in 2002/2003 have a mother who took leave; 62% have a father who took leave; 55% have a father and mother who both took leave. Mothers on average take 351 days, fathers 25.*		

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.22.

* Moss, O' Brien (2006)

6. Estonia

Summary: Low social expenditure, most of all addressed at cash benefits. Social expenditure for services is very low, and few information are available. Fertility rate and female employment are average level, but difference in employment between women with and without children is very high. There exists a specific paternity leave.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2004)	1,351,069	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	38,395	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	36,698	2.7
<i>of which aged <6</i>	75,093	5.6
Total fertility rate (2004)	1,47	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children*		13.6
Children in single-mother families*		19.3

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	29.5	83.1	56.0	66.9
Female employment rate	25.1	77.5	53.7	62.1
<i>of which part time</i>				10.6
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				30.0

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	132.0	1.3
Care services	6.7	0.1
Total	138.7	1.3

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Child allowance	Parental benefit	Child care benefit	Large families	Single parents
Entitlement	Birth of a child	Parents of children <16 (or 19 if full time students)		Working and non-working parents*.	Families with 4 or more children	
Amount	<i>Una tantum</i> 1 st child: € 240 2 nd and subsequent children: € 192 Adoption: € 192	1 st child: € 10 2 nd and subsequent children: € 19	100% of average earnings, (with minimum and ceiling) for 45 weeks from the end of maternity leave. For non-working parents, flat rate (€ 159/month) for 14 weeks from birth.*	0-1.5 years: € 38 1.5-3 years: € 19 3-8 year old children in families with under 3 year old or with 3 or more children: € 19 Flat rate (€ 38.5/month) from the end of parental benefit until the child is 3. if the parent takes up work, amount is reduced*.	€ 10 per family (triplets: € 38)	€19
Institutional level	State	State	State	State	State	State

Sources: Innocenti on Estonia.
MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Nursery	Kindergartens; kindergartens for handicapped children
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Age range		
Content		
Institutional level		
Coverage		

“The proportion of children attending preschool childcare has been growing since 1995 (with an increase in urban areas and a decrease in rural areas). Despite lower birth rates, there is a growing request for places in kindergarten. At the end of 2003 13,824 children were waiting for vacancy, 64% of them in Tallinn and 23% in other cities. In rural area waiting lists are shorter” (Innocenti on Estonia, Regional report, pp.11-12).

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	140 (30-70 before birth); 154 with complications.	Up to 3 years of age of the child	14 days during pregnancy or within 2 months after birth
Replacement rate	a) 100% without ceiling. b) Minimum wage (€ 192/month in 2006) is paid to mothers who did not work in the previous year, but have worked in the past.*	Benefit not specifically linked to parental leave*. 100% (min 141; max € 1,115/month)	€4.2/day*.
Entitlement	a) employed and self employed women b) non employed women who have worked in the past	Dual payment system for employees/non employees	All employed fathers*.

Sources: ILO Online

Council of Europe 2005

* Moss, O' Brien (2006)

7. Finland

Summary: Nordic welfare, big spender. High employment rate and high fertility rate. Universal tax benefits. Generous home care allowances or child-care allowances. Late school entry age (7). Early childcare coverage depends on age, and is almost universal only for 6-7 year olds.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	5,236,611	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	170,243	3.3
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	171,333	3.3
<i>of which aged <6</i>	341,576	6.5
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.80	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children*		2.8
Children in single-mother families*		12.8

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	50.4	85.1	56.4	72.8
Female employment rate	40.6	79.0	52.7	66.5
<i>of which part time</i>				18.6
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				15.7

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	405.5	1.7
Care services	322.9	1.3
Total	728.4	3.0

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Maternity grant	Child benefit	Child home care allowance	Private child-care allowance
Entitlement	All mothers whose pregnancy has lasted for at least 154 days.	Universal tax exempt for the maintenance of all children under 17 resident in Finland.	One of the parents of children <3, from the end of parental allowance.	Every child under school age resident in Finland. Paid directly to the child minder or private care centre.
Amount 2006	€ 140 <i>una tantum</i> or maternity pack (chosen by 76% of expecting mothers).	1 st child: €100.00 2 nd child: €110.50 3 rd child: €131.00 4 th child: €151.50 5 th and each subsequent child: €172.00 The amount for each child of a single parent is supplemented by € 36.60.	€294.28/month for one child + € 84 for each other child <3 years of age + €50 for each child 3-7 years of age. Means tested supplements (maximum € 168.19/month) Partial allowance for parents working less than 30 hours/week (€ 70/month).	€ 137/month per child Means tested supplements (maximum € 134.55/month)
Institutional level	State	State funds	Local authorities' funds	Local authorities
Coverage				
Gender gap			96% of users are women	

Sources: MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Day-care centres	family day care, group family day-care	Kindergarten
Entitlement/access	Unconditional right		
Age range	>3		3-6
Content	Care, socialization, development		
Institutional level	Municipal, directly or by purchasing		
Opening hours	Full-time (25% of children) or part-time.		Full time (74.8) or part time
Coverage (2000)	27.5% of 1-2; 44% of 2-3; 73% by age 5*		54.2% 78% of 6-year-olds * 96-98% of 6-7s

Sources: Grierson 2000.

* OCED (2006) Starting Strong II.

N.B:

Private care accounts for about 2% of day-care places. Private child-care allowance, payable directly to the day-care provider (see supra).

All 600 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran parishes carry out the Church's own early childhood education and care in many different ways.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave	Child-care leave
Duration	17.5 weeks (of which 6-8.5 weeks before birth)	26 weeks (36 in case of multiple births). * Each parent can take leave in two parts, each of at least 12 days. Can be taken part-time at 40 or 60%, but only if both parents take part time leave.	3 weeks. + 2 weeks of bonus for fathers who take at least 2 weeks of parental leave.	From the end of parental leave, until the child is 3 years old.
Replacement rate	*66% (half of employed mothers receive 100% for 3 months). Non employed and low-income mothers get a flat rate of € 15.20/working day.	* 66%	Earning related * 66%	Unpaid, but the family can receive a child home care allowance paid by the local authority until the child is 3 years old.
Entitlement	*Residence. Paid to all women who*] must have lived in Finland at least 180 days before birth	*Residence: must have lived in Finland at least 180 days before birth	Fathers must have lived in Finland for at least 180 days before the date of confinement and must be living with the mother of the child	
Coverage		* Almost 100% of mothers. 2-3% of fathers. With the bonus (see duration of paternity leave), the number of fathers taking parental leave has increased, but the average number of days has decreased (64 in 2002, 29 in 2004).	60% * 69% in 2004	

Sources: Grierson 2000.

ILO online

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006

8. France (*)

Summary: variant of the conservative-Bismarckian welfare model with high female employment and high fertility rates, France has a generous system of family benefits. The country is characterised by the parallel development of a) collective care, b) individual care and c) incentives for family (mothers') care. Although care needs are not completely satisfied and tensions persist, France provides the most reconciliation options in continental Europe and these are on the whole fairly accessible to most families. Several similarities are shared with Belgium.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	62,370,800	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	2,372,257	3.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	2,387,659	3.8
<i>of which aged <6</i>	4,759,916	7.6
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.94	
School entry age	5	
Poverty rate for children*		7.9
Children in single-mother families*		11.5

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	34.3	80.2	37.1	64.1
Female employment rate	26.3	72.9	35.2	57.6
<i>of which part time</i>				30.7
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, 2006)				10.2

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Gender equality concerns have accounted for the strong protection of women's jobs and an important development of different part-time work patterns. More than the presence of children is their number which really impacts on women's employment, with a meaningful drop after the third child.

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	495.7	2.1
Care services	134.4	0.6
Total	630.1	2.6

Source: Eurostat

Pro-natal policies have long been developed because of traditionally low fertility levels. This has favoured generous monetary transfers to families, proportional advantages for families with more children, tax benefits, etc. On the other hand, republican individualism and gender equality concerns have favoured the protection of women's jobs (Comaille, Martin 1998). The interplay of this two forces has created a sort of "citizenship of families" (Bimbi 1997).

All this led to the development of an articulated system of sometimes contradictory measures: service provision, but also monetary compensation for withdrawal from the labour market (aimed, among other things, at containing the unemployment of women).

Cash allowances description

	Birth allowance	<i>Allocations familiales</i>	<i>Allocation de base (in Prestation d'accueil du jeune enfant)</i>	<i>Complément de libre choix de mode de garde</i>
Entitlement	Means tested	All families with at least two children	Every child <3 years of age. Means-tested.	Working parents officially hiring a childminder, at her house or at the family's.
Amount	€840.96	€ 117.14/month for two children; € 267,21 for three children; + € 150,08 for every other child (2006).	€ 168,20/month (2006)	Between € 78,96 and 368,48/month, according to number and age of children, and household income level (2006) + social contribution.
Institutional level	State	State	State	State

Source: www.cnaf.fr

In 2004 a global reform of family allowances was introduced, aimed at revising and systematising several existing measures. The rhetoric on freedom of choice characterised the reform.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks: 4 before, 10 after birth, 2 flexible. Can be shortened, but not under 8 weeks.	6 months for the first child; 3 years for the second and any other child.	11 days (since 2003)
Replacement rate	100% of basic salary without social contributions (=80%), with ceiling. The difference can be supplemented by the employer.	No specific payment. Parents can apply for the <i>Complement de libre choix d'activité</i> : parents not working: € 521,85/month (including Allocation de base, see above). parents working part-time: € 396,82/month (<50% of a full time), or € 300,08/month (50-80% of a full time) (amounts include the Allocation de base, see above). Both parents can work part-time, getting together at the maximum one full benefit. Families with at least three children where one parent stops working completely are entitled to a flat rate benefit of €750/month for 1 year.	100% of basic salary without social contributions (=80%), with ceiling.
Entitlement	Employed and self-employed workers ; interim and seasonal workers ;unemployed.	For leave: having worked for at least 1 year for the employer before birth. For the benefit: having worked 2 years over the: - 2 years before the birth of the 1 st child; - 4 years before the 2 nd ; - 5 years before the 3 rd and plus. * Means-tested, 90% of families are eligible.	
Take-up	Almost all mothers, although the length varies (higher status women taking less leave)*	Women make up 98-99% of recipients*.	Around 2/3 of eligible fathers in 2003*

Source: www.cnaf.fr

* Moss, 2006

Parental leaves have been introduced in the Eighties for the third birth, and entitlement was gradually enlarged to the birth of the second and recently of the first child. Parental leaves foresee the right to job maintenance for three years (6 months for the first child), and a mean-tested flat-rate allowance.

They are flexible in use, as far as they can be combined with paid work on a full-time, long part-time or short part-time basis, with the allowance level varying accordingly.

They are equally accessible for men and women, but due to the low allowance level, and the gender salary difference, the take-up rate of fathers is very limited (Boyer, Renouard 2004). The take-up rate of mothers depends heavily on their working conditions: women working with temporary contracts, in low paid and/or low career perspective jobs are far more likely to withdraw from the labour market (de Singly 2003).

Care services description

	<i>Crèches</i>	<i>Assistantes maternelles</i> (childminders)	<i>Ecoles maternelles</i>
Entitlement/access	Children with both parents (or only parent present) working or employable.	Private contract between families and childminders.	Universal, free.
Age range	0-3 years	0-6 years eligible for demand-side monetary support. >6 for out of school hours.	2 or 3 to 5 years
Content	Reconciliation, socialization, social mix.		Socialization, early education.
Institutional level	Municipality or departments	Municipalities or departments (control); State (demand-side monetary support)	State
Coverage	10% (+ 10% in écoles maternelles)	21%	100%
Tax benefit	yes	yes	

Source: MIRE/DREES (2006)

France is characterised by a dual pre-school system. The coverage of Kindergartens is universal, with a long tradition of early entry, especially in some regions (West). Of all children below 3 years of age, on average 10% go to public (mainly municipal) crèches, which enjoy a good reputation; another 10% benefit from an early entry into kindergarten (30% of 2 year olds on average). A further 20% is in individual care (childminders), highly controlled and subsidised (on the demand-side, through allowances and tax or social security benefits) by public authorities, largely organised in associations, and in some cases inserted in the public municipal supply system (*crèches familiales*). There are, nevertheless, important territorial differences, especially along the urban/rural cleavage, collective care facilities being mainly concentrated in urban areas (Bertaux, Le Bras 1999).

One can observe a vitality of third sector supply in childcare services: parents' associations managing "parents' crèches", neighbourhood associations managing "integrative services", etc.

Both collective care and care by childminders are highly subsidised according to nationally homogeneous scales. Crèches fees correspond to about 12% of household income. Latest reforms make individual care even more advantageous for high income families.

Problems and issues at stake

- polarisation of women's working conditions;
- social mix versus priority to households in need;
- atypical care needs (e.g. atypical or flexible working hours);
- appearance of private supply, which may entail quality and access questions;
- improper use of integrative services in order to answer to demand/supply gap.

9. Germany (*)

Summary: the country corresponds to the conservative-Bismarckian model. In this policy area active subsidiarity towards families is implemented through an important role of the cash and tax benefits, and a relevant presence of private actors in service provision. Re-unification of former Eastern and Western Länder had an impact on the trends concerning fertility, employment and allocation of care responsibilities.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	82,500,849	
of which aged 0-2	2,139,164	2.6
of which aged 3-5	2,295,976	2.8
of which aged <6	4,435,140	5.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.36	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		9.0
Children in single-mother families*		12.5

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	46.8	79.0	43.1	66.9
Female employment rate	40.2	71.6	37.5	59.6
of which part time				43.8
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, 2006)				20.3

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	538.1	2.3
Care services	181.3	0.8
Total	719.4	3.1

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Child benefit (<i>Kindergeld</i>)	Child raising benefit (children born until 31-12-2006)
Entitlement	Persons with children up to 18 years of age (21-27 if in education)	Families where parents are not working more than 30 hours/week. Means-tested. (2 years)
Amount	Flat rate, monthly amount: €154 per child until the 3 rd and €179 for the 4 th and subsequent children	€300/month for 2 years, or €450/month for 1 year.
Institutional level	Federal	Federal. 5 länder pay a means-tested childbearing benefit extended to the third year of parental leave.
Coverage	Entire population	92.4% 78.8% of which prolonged beyond 6 months 69.1% continued into year 2.

Source: MISSOC 2006

Information from national expert

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	6 weeks before birth (voluntary); 8 weeks (12 for multiple or premature births) after birth.	Up to 2006: 3 years after birth, to be shared between the parents and to be taken them during the child's first three life years, or save one year for when the child is between 3 and 8. Both parents can take it at the same time. Both can take-up to two periods of leave. Since 2007: 12 months, 14 if the father takes at least two months. Or 28 at half the replacement rate	No general statutory entitlement.
Replacement rate	100%	Up to 2006 state means-tested child-raising benefit (see <i>supra</i>). Parents may work part-time (up to 30 hours/week). Since 2007, 67% of earnings, with a ceiling of €1,800/month. For parents with no former income: € 300/month (+ means tested supplements)	
Entitlement	All women employees, also part-time, even if below statutory social insurance threshold. No self-employed women eligible.	All parents gainfully employed at date of birth.	
Institutional level		Federal	
Take-up	100%	In 2003 4.9% of fathers took parental leave and received childbearing benefit..	

Source: Moss, 2006

Care services description

	<i>Krippen</i> – Day nurseries for <3	Kindergarten	Family day care (Tagesmutter)
Entitlement/access		Each 3-6 year old child has a legal right to a place.	Mainly privately funded and organised childminders caring for one or several children.
Age range	<3	3-6	
Content	Reconciliation of family and work, care, education		
Institutional level	Municipalities. But due to federal framework, the distribution of responsibilities may differ (mostly under social/family services, but sometimes local ministry of education*).		
Opening hours	Mainly all-day (91% of places)	Mainly part-time (4 hours/day) (63.6% of places), but generally full-day in Eastern Länder.	
Coverage 2002	8.5% Western Länder: 2.7% Eastern Länder: 36.9% Berlin: 35.8%	89.8% Western Länder: 88.1% Eastern Länder: 105.1% Berlin: 80.6%	5.2% children <6 (i.e. 240,000 + 55,000 school-age children), mainly in Western Länder.
Unsatisfied demand (waiting list)			
Regional differences	Due to federal framework, the quality and quantity of services for families differ significantly from one Land to the other. Differences between former Eastern and Western Länder persist.		
NB: age integrated institutions cover the entire age spectrum in some cases, including out-of-school provision for children in school-age.			

Sources: OECD (2004) German Background report 2002-2004 for OECD Starting Strong

* OECD (2006), p.76

The childcare system developed in a complete different way in Western and Eastern Germany after World War II. In Western Germany (especially in the Southern Länder) early childcare was considered a family responsibility, basically that of mothers. Care facilities were mainly addressed to marginal cases. Female participation rate was as a consequence very low until the Sixties. With the growth of female employment during the Seventies, kindergarten provision developed as well, and attendance – although part time – became almost universal for 4 and 5 year olds. In contrast, in Eastern Germany early childcare was considered a public duty, exercised through a global, centralised provision full-time and free of charge. During the Eighties, 70% of children under 3 and virtually 100% of 4 and 5 year olds were enrolled in the pre-school system, both to support female employment and to assure an early socialist socialisation (Evers, Riedel, 2002). After reunification, due to the high unemployment rate, in ex-Eastern Länder early childcare was progressively undertaken by mothers, and the number and quality of services decreased, whereas in ex-Western Länder the “one and half” model has been developing, with women working part-time after giving birth. Besides differences between former Eastern and Western Germany, the levels of provision are locally differentiated.

Germany is still lagging behind in international comparisons about early childcare provision, but since 1996 a Federal law obliges Municipalities to provide kindergarten places to every child, at least part-time. Municipalities work in partnership with non profit providers in order to fulfil such a requirement.

The diversification of providers is in fact considered by law a positive feature, as the presence of different providers can best respond to different and changing social needs. This is coherent with the subsidiarity principle, according to which each function has to be carried out by the smallest possible institution and the lowest possible level: higher institutional levels are only intended to support the family.

Small incentives have been introduced in some Länder (e.g. Bavaria) for for-profit services as well, but their presence remains limited.

Part of the childminders' provision (Tagesmütter) is inserted in the public childcare system, with State subsidies, that lowers the final cost for families.

In recent years there have been attempts to expand services' opening hours, but part-time or full-time without lunch (which requires children to be accompanied from and to school in the middle of the day) are largely the prevalent patterns of provision (Evers, Riedel, 2002). Besides, a plan has been recently launched for the quantitative increase of crèche-like facilities. A new law (*Tagesbetreuungsbaugesetz*) passed in 2005 was aimed at boosting the provision of care for children under 3. The purpose is, by 2010, to offer services to all parents who are either in employment or in training or in search of employment. It is estimated that 230.000 additional places are needed, 30% of which should be created in the form of family day care (68.000 places). Nevertheless, no extra money has yet been transferred to local authorities, responsible for the implementation of the law.

10. Greece

Summary: Southern European welfare model: low female employment, low fertility rate. Very low coverage of childcare services for children aged 0-2; a bit higher for children aged 3-4. low cash benefits; special benefits for large families.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	11,082,751	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	313,490	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	304,571	2.7
<i>of which aged <6</i>	618,061	5.6
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.28	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		12.9
Children in single-mother families*		4.3

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	30.4	68.2	27.1	54.5
Female employment rate	19.8	58.5	25.8	46.1
<i>of which part time</i>				9.3
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				3.5

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	221.4	1.3
Care services	102.6	0.6
Total	324.0	1.9

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Family benefit
Entitlement	Employed parents (50 days prior to application) Child must be single and residing in EU
Age range	Until 18 (22 if in education) No age limits for disabled children
Amount	€month (2006) 1 child 8.22 2 children 24.65 3 children 55.47 4 children 67.35 for each additional child 11.30. plus: for each child born after 1-1-1982: 2.93 Supplement of €3.67 for each child if parent is widow/er, invalid or soldier as long as survivor's pension does not exceed a certain amount. Supplement for parent of handicapped child: €3.67 per month.
Institutional level	State

N.B: The employer usually grants 5% of gross earnings to each individual worker (married or not) for each child plus 10% for the spouse. The spouse allowance is independent of her employment and/or income.

Source: MISSOC, 2006

Care service description

	Kindergartens	Public day care
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Content		
Institutional level		
Coverage	10,000 children aged 8 months' old till their matriculation with Primary School	78,000 pre-school children (aged 2 ½ years' old till their matriculation with Primary School)
Coverage (*)	3% of children 0-2 46% of children 3-4	

N.B. 15% of fees paid for child and infant centres may be deducted from gross income before tax if at least one spouse has an income from salaries or pensions; the amount the deduction may not exceed €75

Sources: OECD : <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/30/36219429.pdf>

(*) Bradshaw and Finch, 2002, p.78.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	17 weeks: 8 before birth and 9 after.	13 weeks per child for each parent. Individual right. Doubled for twins, tripled for triplets. 6 months for lone mothers.	Two days*
Replacement rate	100%	Unpaid.	
Entitlement	n.a.	1 year of continuous work with the present employer. The partner must work outside the home.	
Take-up	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

NB: Information in this table refers to the private sector. Significant variation is observed between private and public sector (leaves in public sector are covered by different legislation and are more generous)*.

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.22, 30

ILO on line.

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

11. Hungary (*)

Summary: low fertility rate and women's employment, very low part time share and very high difference in employment between women with and without children. Almost universal coverage for services for children aged 3-5, low for children <3. Quite developed system of parental leaves.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	10,097,549	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	283,590	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	288,005	2.9
<i>of which aged <6</i>	571,595	5.7
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.32	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		8.8
Children in single-mother families*		6.7

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1999)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	23.8	72.1	27.7	55.1
Female employment rate	19.2	67.2	26.7	51.0
<i>of which part time</i>				5.8
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, 2006)				35.3

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	268.1	2.1
Care services	86.3	0.7
Total	345.4	2.7

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Maternity grant	Family allowance
Entitlement	Mothers participating in pregnant care at least 4 times	0-18 years of the child 19-23 years of the child (if in secondary education)
Amount	225% of minimum pension, or 300% in the case of twins	Depends on number of children, single parenthood, disability of the child. €month per child 1 child: €44 1 child, single parent: €47 2 children: €47 2 children single parent: €51 3 or more children: €55 3 or more children: single parent: €59 disabled child in family: €83 disabled child, single parent: €91 child in foster home/at foster parent: €51
Institutional level		State
Coverage	In 2003: 91,700 people	
		From 1 January 2006 the family allowance, the family tax benefit and the regular child protection benefit have been merged and continued to be disbursed under the title of family allowance. Thus the former amounts of family allowance went up by 84% on average. Those recipients also got high amounts of support, who formerly had not been able to take advantage of the tax benefits, owing to their low income. Families raising three or more children are still entitled to family tax benefit up to certain income threshold.

Sources: Hungarian government, 2006 20-24
MISSOC 2006

Several other benefits are present in the Hungarian allowance system.

Supplementary child protection benefit is provided to relatives – appointed as guardians – of children receiving regular child protection subsidy: The monthly amount of this benefit is 22% of the currently applicable old age minimum pension. In addition, twice a year they receive a lump sum benefit.

The local government may provide *extraordinary child protection benefit* to children of families in difficult situations. About 240,000 children receive this benefit each year. The local government may also provide this benefit in kind (80,000-100,000 children receive in-kind benefits annually).

The child welfare agency may award *advances of maintenance payment*, if the parent obliged to pay the maintenance payment is temporarily unable to pay it. In 2005 9,320 children received these advances.

(Hungarian government, 2006, p.23-24)

Care service description

	<i>Bölcsöde</i> (crèches)	Family day care	Ovoda (kindergarten)
Entitlement/access			Free. Compulsory for 5 year olds.
Age range	0-2		3-5
Content			
Institutional level			
Opening hours			Full time (40 hours/week)
Coverage		9.3% of 0-2	86% of 3-5s 97% of 5-6s

OECD 2006, p.76

Beginning from the 1990s, owing to the unfavourable financing schemes and the decrease of the number of children the number of *crèches* and children receiving care in *crèches* has dropped significantly. In 1997 normative state subsidy was introduced for *crèches*, after that the number of *crèche* closures decreased and the process of closing down halted, and over the last two years an increase has taken place. In 2005 there were 530 *crèches* providing care to almost 30,000 children. About 8% of children under the age of 3 go to *crèche*. As of 1 July 2005 it has been mandatory to operate *crèches* in localities of over 10 thousand inhabitants, still, 14 localities have not yet established their *crèches* despite the legal obligation. Unfortunately, in small localities there are huge gaps in the provision of these services, most of the *crèches* are operated in towns, in villages there are only about 50 of these. (Hungarian government, 2006, p.24)

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave pregnancy confinement benefit	Paternity Leave*	Parental leave 1 Childcare leave (GYED)	Parental leave 2 Childcare allowance (GYES)	Parental leave 3 Child Rearing support (GYET)
Duration	24 weeks (0 to 4 before birth*)	5 days to be taken during the first two months of the child's life.	From the end of maternity leave and up to 2 years of age.	Paid up to 3 years of age (10 in case of serious disability of the child; 6 in case of the twins) for parents not insured. For insured parents, from the end of GYED, until the child's third birthday.	Either of the parents who raise three or more children under 14 in their own home (the youngest being between 3 and 8 years old) and work maximum four hours a day
Replacement rate	70% or twice the daily minimum wage.	100% of father's average daily wage.	70% with ceiling (€332 in 2006)	Flat-rate equal to minimum amount of the old age pension (€98.8 in 2006)	Flat-rate equal to minimum pension amount (€ 98.8 in 2006), regardless of the number of children
Entitlement	180 days of employment in previous two years, otherwise leave is unpaid.	All employed fathers.	180 days of employment in previous two years Alternative to GYES. Only mothers (and single fathers) can take it during the first year. Either parent, but only one, afterwards*.	* All parents. Parents cannot work until the child's first birthday, then they can work unlimited hours while still receiving the full benefit until the child's third birthday. From the child's 1 st to 3 rd birthday it can be taken by grandparents looking after him/her. They cannot work at the same time.	Not linked to previous employment. Acknowledgement of parenthood as paid work*.
Institutional level				State	
Coverage	In 2004 28,000 women It is thought almost all eligible women take it.*	n.a.	In 2005 87,000 people	In 2005 161,400 people	In 2005: 47,000 recipients
				From 2006 this support has been made available to parents employed full time, for children aged 1-3. Source: Hungarian government (2006), pp.20-21.	

Sources: Hungarian government, 2006, pp. 20-21; Council of Europe 2005: 15-16.

* Moss, 2006

12. Ireland

Summary: Average female employment, very high fertility rate in comparison to the EU average. Unpaid parental leave and no paternity leave do not favour fathers' take-up. Universal early childcare for children aged 4-6. Importance of unregulated childminders for younger children.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	4,109,173	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	183,063	4.5
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	170,173	4.1
<i>of which aged <6</i>	353,236	8.6
Total fertility rate (2004)	1.99	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		17.2
Children in single-mother families*		13.5

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	49.9	69.6	38.2	60.8
Female employment rate	45.9	67.3	37.3	58.3
<i>of which part time</i>				n.a.
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				18.2

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	662.2	2.3
Care services	76.0	0.3
Total	738.2	2.5

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Family allowance	Family Income Supplement (FIS)	Continued child dependant payment (CCDP)	Lone parent benefit
Entitlement	Multiple births	For each dependent child under 16 (19 if in education) Not means-tested.	A claimant must be working at least 19 hours/week or 38 hours/fortnight. Married or cohabiting couples can add their hours together. At least 1 child up to age 18 (or 22 if in full time education).	Must have been unemployed for 12 months or more, in receipt of either Unemployment Benefit/Assistance and be receiving a full rate increase for dependent children or have been in Community Employment. Also, they must commence full-time employment or self-employment, which is expected to last for at least 4 weeks.	Being a lone parent. Means-tested
Amount	€635 at birth and at ages 4 and 12	€ 141.60/month for each of the first two children, and € 177.30/month for each subsequent child.	60% of the difference between the net family income and an earnings limit. The earnings limit varies with family size. A minimum supplement of € 13 is payable. Weekly net earnings limit (€) 1 Child 379 2 Children 405 3 Children 430 4 Children 455 5 Children 487 6 Children 513 7 Children 534 8 Children 556	Recipient will continue to be paid for their children for 13 weeks if they get work for at least 4 weeks.	The amount depends on the Lone Parent income: the benefit is € 165.80/week (maximum rate) if the weekly means are less than € 7.60. Supplement of € 19.30/week per child.
Duration			52 weeks renewable	13 weeks	

Sources: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/31/5/36215614.pdf>

MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Nurseries and crèches	Early Start Programme	Infant classes in primary schools
Entitlement/access			
Age range	2-3 months to 4 years	3-4 years	4-6
Content		Disadvantaged areas	
Institutional level			Ministry of Education
Opening hours	Full time		
Coverage	10-15% (OECD 2006, p.76) of children 0-4 years	4% at age 3; 56% of children 3-6 years nearly 100% from age 5 OECD 2006, p.76	100%
	Most children are in family or unregulated informal child-minding arrangements		

Sources: Corrigan 2000
OECD 2006, p.76

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	Min 18, max 22 weeks (at least 2 weeks before birth) + 12 weeks unpaid*. Should be raised to 42 weeks, 26 of which paid, by 2007*.	14 weeks per child for each parent (individual right). May be taken until the child is 5, in several blocks*.	No general statutory entitlement.
Replacement rate	80% (min 182.60/week - max €265.60/week) Reductions in presence of several other benefits.	Unpaid	
Entitlement	Insured employed and self employed (minimum contribution 39 weeks in the year before birth)	1 year continuous work with their present employer.	
Take-up	n.a.	20% of eligible parents. 84% of parental leave was taken by women in 2001. The larger barrier is financial*.	

Sources: Council of Europe, 2005, p.30.

Department of Social and Family affairs, on line <http://www.welfare.ie/publications/sw11.html#1>

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

13. Italy (*)

Summary: Southern European country, small spender, with low female employment and participation in the labour market. Low, targeted cash benefits. Very flexible parental leaves, but with low replacement rates. Universal coverage of services for children aged 3-5, low coverage for younger children, with major territorial differences. Importance of family informal care (grandparents) and growing role of private for profit facilities. Little demand-side monetary support.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	58,462,375	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	1,645,325	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	1,628,215	2.8
<i>of which aged <6</i>	3,273,540	5.6
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.32	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		16.6
Children in single-mother families*		4.9

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	28.7	63.6	21.5	50.4
Female employment rate	20.8	57.9	20.8	45.3
<i>of which part time</i>				25.6
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				6.8

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Italy is the one of the countries with the lowest female participation in the labour market. This is due, among other things, to the limited and delayed development of part time work, so that for a long time Italian women faced a dichotomous alternative between full-time job or no paid job at all (except for public sectors such as teaching, etc, where full-time patterns have always been rather short). In more recent years, labour market de-regulation represented for many women an opportunity to enter or re-enter the labour market, by means of different flexibility forms, also in terms of working schedules. Yet, this is linked to a severe lack of social protection and rights, and many women are at risk of being entrapped in such jobs. This reinforces the secondary character of mothers' jobs within households.

Social expenditure on child care policies

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	151.2	0.7
Care services	86.6	0.4
Total	237.7	1.0

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	<i>Assegni al nucleo familiare</i> (household allowance)	<i>Assegni familiari</i> (family allowances)
Entitlement	Subordinated workers; unemployed on benefit; cooperatives' members; atypical workers; ex-subordinated retired workers.	Farmers; Ex-autonomous retired workers; Ex-farmers retired.
Amount	For a household with two parents, one child, the amount ranges between € 12.91 (yearly income €33,102.98 to 41,960.62) and €130.66 (yearly income up to €12,437.25).	€10.21 for each beneficiary; (€ 8.18 for each beneficiary farmers).
Institutional level	State (National social insurance body – INPS)	State (INPS)
Coverage	Means-tested.	Means-tested

Source: INPS – online at www.inps.it

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	21 weeks, of which either 4 or 8 before birth.	Individual entitlement: max 6 months for each parent. The couple together can take-up to max 10 months. If the father takes at least 3 months, he is entitled to 1 additional month (and the couple to 11 months). Length is doubled for twins, tripled for triplets. Extremely flexible in use, can be taken in one period of 6 months, or unlimited shorter periods. Both parents can take leave at the same time.	No specific measure. Fathers can enjoy the maternity leave if the mother is dead, severely incapacitated or has abandoned the child.
Replacement rate	80%, no ceiling.	30% until the child is 3. Unpaid when the child is between 3 and 8 (but still paid at 30% for very low-income households).	
Entitlement	Employees. For insured self-employed women, maternity leave is not compulsory, but a 5 month allowance is paid. Atypical workers are entitled to 80% of the previous year's income divided by 12. If the maternity allowance they are entitled to is lower, it is topped up to an amount (www.inps.it). Low-income mothers who are not entitled to any other maternity allowance, receive an allowance from their Municipality but with funds from the national social insurance body (a maximum of €1,443.73 in 2006, or less according to the household income level).	All employed parents, except domestic workers and home helps. Self-employed mothers are entitled to 3 months of parental leave, with allowance, within the 1 st year of the child. The father is entitled even if the mother is not (e.g. housewife). Since 2007, non-standard workers are entitled to 3 months at 30% until the 1 st year of age of the child, but take-up is limited by the temporary duration of the contracts and the consequent workers' fear that these could not be renewed.	Subordinated worker.
Take-up	Compulsory, 100%.	Before the reform in 2000: 0.3% of male employees and 4% of female employees had taken at least one day of leave. After the reform, data rose to 1.2% and 5.2%. In the public sector, men take on average 31 days/year, women take 69 days/year. 1/3 of women take more than 3 months; 70% of men take maximum 1 month**.	

Sources: Italian law on parental leaves. Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

** De Pasquale, Lelleri, 2006.

A legislative reform of parental leaves was undertaken in 2001, aimed at enlarging the entitlement to maternity leaves, as well as providing innovative solutions in terms of flexibility of use and incentives for fathers (use-or-lose). Yet, as always in Italy, the weak point is represented by scant resources. As a consequence, the low replacement rates lower the potential take-up rate, especially for fathers.

Care services description

	<i>Asilo nido</i> (crèche)	<i>Scuola dell'infanzia</i> (kindergarten)
Entitlement/access	In public structures: a number of criteria establish the priority list, due to lack of places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residence in the Municipality; • both parents working; • number and age of children; • availability of grandparents... In private structures: first come, first served.	Universal; free
Age range	3 months – 3 years	2.5/3 – 5.5/6 years Entry age was lowered from 3 to 2.5 years since 2003 (experimentally in 2003-2005), but early access is only possible if there are places available, what seldom happens.
Content	Care, socialization	Care, socialization, early education
Institutional level	Municipal	Mainly State, partly Municipalities.
Opening hours	Mainly full time (10 hours/day)	7/8 hours a day. Sometimes pre and after school available if needed.
Coverage	10% in 2006*	100%

Sources: * Innocenti 2006

** Istat 2006

From the point of view of pre-school **services**, the answer was dual. Since the '70s, and most of all during the '80s, a steady development of kindergartens (3-5) is observed, until an almost universal public coverage, with a prevalent presence of State as a provider, a reduced but still meaningful role of Municipalities, and a limited supply of confessional third sector "equalised" kindergartens (fulfilling public requirements) that complete the supply.

During the '70s, on the rush of feminist movements, an important development of public early childcare facilities was programmed as well. Yet, because of scant resources and contradictory political will (to be kept in mind the role of catholic confessional and traditional parties), such a development slowed down and lagged far behind.

As a consequence, the growth of needs for out-of-home care was only partly met by the growth of public supply, and with major territorial differences (good public supply in the Centre and North, minimal in the South). This stimulated an important development of private supply, only partly supported by public financial incentives (most of all start-up helps). Altogether, the existing supply covers around 10% of children <3 years of age. No regulation nor public supply except for very limited local experimental initiatives exist about childminders (coverage estimated at 4% of children <3). More than 20% of young children are cared for by grandparents, covering almost entirely the working hours of mothers.

Late and limited development of integrative services (part-time services for early socialization and parenthood support).

Due to the virtually inexistence of demand-side public support, private supply, both collective (private crèches) and individual (childminders), which is growing in importance, is very expensive for Italian families (€400-600/month). The costs of public care (fees are proportional to household size and income level) vary consistently between regions (with major differences between Northern and Southern Regions) and even between neighbouring municipalities. For a two-earner average income household, anyway, also public crèche fee can be really expensive, especially in the Centre-North of the country (€400/month).

Institutional arrangement trends

In the last fifteen years, the gap between supply of and demand for early childcare services has been growing not only for the increase of female employment, reducing the availability of caregivers within the families (mothers, but also grandmothers), but also because of a changing attitude towards out-of-home care and a growing interest for early socialization in new generations of parents. In response to this growing gap, the answer was mainly given by a rather important diversification of supply, partly economically supported and only partly systematised. The failure to insert private for profit and third sector supply into a large supply system including the public one has consequences in terms of financial burden of childcare on household budgets (private supply has market-level fees), access to information, quality guarantees. In fact, while private crèches are asked to fulfil severe structural and pedagogical requirements, smaller facilities receiving less than 8 children can operate (in some cases also heavily financed by public authorities) with barely any regulation and control.

Since the end of the Nineties some attention has been devoted to policies and services for childhood, but with limited monetary resources, and – therefore – with a project-based, experimental approach which favoured some innovation, but contrasted the continuity of service provision.

The last Government (2001-2006) has supported private facilities (private crèches, micro-crèches and company crèches) with limited but symbolically important resources, and through tax benefits for both employers and employees. A similar trend can be observed in some Regions and/or Municipalities mainly with right-wing coalitions.

The present Government has launched a program to finance a new wave of public crèche development, promising to increase the number of places in public facilities by 60% in the next 3 years.

Financial sustainability of childcare policies

- costs disease for public services;
- quality concern for private services (structures and pedagogical project and tools);
- bad contract conditions of workers in private services in order to keep market level fees, with consequences in terms of quality of the provision (high turn over).
- inadequacy of monetary transfers to families (children's allowances);
- demand-supply gap for services <3;
- lack of regulation and of demand-side monetary support for small private services and individual care;
- low replacement rate of parental leaves contrasts incentives for fathers.

14. Latvia

Summary: Low social expenditure and fertility rate. Average women's employment. Universal cash benefits. Very high waiting lists for care services. There exists a small paternity leave.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	2,306,434	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	61,112	2.6
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	58,551	2.5
<i>of which aged <6</i>	119,663	5.2
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.31	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children		n.a.
Children in single-mother families		n.a.

Source: Eurostat

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	31.3	82.0	48.5	65.1
Female employment rate	26.2	75.3	45.3	58.4
<i>of which part time</i>				10.4

Source: Eurostat. Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	100.5	1.1
Care services	23.1	0.3
Total	123.6	1.4

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Family benefit	Child raising allowance
Entitlement	All people bringing up children up to 15 years (21 if in education)	Flat rate benefit provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons who are not employed (not socially insured) and who are raising children under 1 year of age; • persons who are not full-time employed and who are raising children between 1 to 2 years of age. Earnings-related benefit provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons who are employed (are socially insured), are on child care leave and who are raising children under 1 year of age, • persons who are part-time employees shall be entitled to a benefit if they are employed for no more than 20 hours a week and the child is between 1 to 2 years of age.
Amount	The basic amount of the Family Benefit (Ģimenes valsts pabalsts) varies according to the number of children in family: 1st child: €8.62 2nd child: €10 3rd child: €14 4th and subsequent children: €16	Flat rate (full time € 72/month; part time €43/month) Earnings-related benefit (70%; with limits between €80 and 563/month)
Institutional level	State	State
Coverage		

Sources: MISSOC 2006

Latvia National Report 2006-2008, p.8

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access		
Content		
Age range	0-2	3-6
Institutional level		
Coverage	15.8% (2002)	77% (2002)

Source: Innocenti on Latvia

According to the CSB, the capacity of pre-school educational establishments in the school year 2004/2005 was 50,110 children, while there were 62,443 children on the list for receiving these services.

Innocenti Latvia , p.15

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	112 days	18 months up to 8 years	10 days
Replacement rate	100%	Until 1 year of age: - Employees: 70% (min.80 max 558/month); - Non employees: € 71/month. Until 2 years of age: € 43/month	80%
Entitlement	Employed women	Dual payment system for employees/non employees	

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.22, 30.
ILO online

15. Lithuania

Summary: Transition country, low social expenditure, low fertility rate, average female employment. Following to the transition to democracy, the existing service system went through a difficult development. Coverage for children aged 3-5 is not high (<60%), coverage for children aged <3 is limited but higher than in several European countries (e.g. Southern European). Much of the scant resources are devoted to support “dysfunctional families”, which is more a priority than childcare in a reconciliation approach.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	3,425,324	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	90,302	2.6
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	99,893	2.9
<i>of which aged <6</i>	190,195	5.6
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.27	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		n.a.
Children in single-mother families*		n.a.

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Women's activity rate	20.5	85.8	44.5	64.9
Women's employment rate	17.4	78.8	41.7	59.4
<i>of which part time</i>				9.1

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Female activity rate	66.9	0.7
Female employment rate	35.9	0.4
Total	102.8	1.0

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Universal child allowance 0-2	Universal child allowance (introduced in 2004)	Benefit for large families
Entitlement	All parents	Allowance for each child aged 0-3 Non means-tested	Families with children aged: 0 to 7 years (up to 2 children) 0 to 18 (24 if in education) years (3 or more children). Non means-tested.	Families with at least three children (up to 16 years of age, or until the end of secondary school) a) means testing for 3 children b) non means tested for 4 children
Amount	€388	75% of Minimum subsistence level	Families with 1-2 children: € 27/month per child aged 0-3 € 14/month per child aged 0-3 Families with 3 or more children: € 40/month per child aged 0-3 € 14/month per child aged 3-18 (24)	100 % MSL for third child; 130% for fourth child; 160% for fifth etc.
Institutional level		National government		
Coverage				

Sources: Kabasinskaite and Bak; 2006: 252
Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 15
Lithuania 2006:21
MISSOC

Care service description

	Crèche	Kindergarten	Cash allowance substitutive of childcare provision (since 1991)
Entitlement/access			Family with a child younger than 7 not enrolled in day care
Age range	0-2	3-6	0-7
Content			Allowance equal to 70% average state expense for one child in day-care institution
Institutional level			National
Coverage	16.5 (2002)	58.5 (2002)	

Sources: Innocenti on Lithuania

After World War I and during the Soviet regime Lithuania developed a well developed system of pre-school facilities, similarly to other socialist countries, and it became one of the European countries with the highest child take-up rates in kindergartens and crèches and with the highest female participation in the labour market. The expansion of child care facilities lasted until the fall of the Soviet regime: in 1987, 64% of pre-school age children were attending nurseries (46% of 1-2 year olds) and kindergartens (over 71% of year olds) (Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 16).

After the fall of the communist regime, Lithuania switched to a policy that supported “mothers’ stay-at-home parenting”. This was done mainly through the “Law on State allowance for the Family”, providing an allowance instead of day care services to families with children aged up to 7 years (Kabasinskaite and Bak; 2006: 253).

“During the first year of Lithuanian independence many kindergartens and crèches were closed down. During the period 1990-1996, the number of kindergartens dropped from 813 to 500 in urban areas and from 868 to 229 in rural areas. In 1990 there were 2,400 crèches and in 1996 only 800 [...]. In 1998 only 35% of the applicants for enrolment in public day-care institutions were fulfilled. To meet the demand for childcare a market supply was introduced as an alternative. However the services of private day care institutions are far too expensive for most parents” (Kabasinskaite and Bak; 2006: 253)

Between 1989 and 1993 the proportion of children aged 1-6 years that attended pre-school fell from 64% to 21% (in cities from 74 to 29%; in, villages from 34 to 6%). The proportion of children under 3 years dropped from 44% to 6% (in cities from 54 to 9%, in villages from 26 to 1%), and between 3 and 6 from 71 to 30% (in cities from 82 to 41%, in villages from 38 to 8%).

Nevertheless, from the mid-1990s, a reorganisation and expansion of the pre-school care system entailed a new role for nurseries and kindergartens. More flexibility in schedules was introduced together with individual care and educational programmes. Private day care institutions were established. Nonetheless, pre-school facilities are generally run by local authorities (in 2003 only four were private ones and educated just 0.3% of total number of children attending pre-primary establishments. (Innocenti, 2004a: 10).

In 2002 the take up rate of services was 45% of 1-6 year olds (16.5% for 1-2 year olds and 58.5% for 3 year olds and over). The take up rates in cities were, respectively by age, 61.5%, 24.0% and 78.6% per cent of children. A new problem of overpopulation and lack of vacancies in care facilities is emerging.

Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 17

Statistical data for the period of 1995–2003 confirm the growth in the availability and use of preschool facilities. In 1995 pre-school services were attended by 30.1% of children aged 1-6 years, in 2003 by 47.7 %. Nevertheless there is a considerable difference between urban areas (66.2%) in rural (14.1%) and between counties UNICEF, Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 9). A positive trend is apparent until 2005 (Statistics Lithuania, online; <http://www.std.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1534>).

The growth in the coverage rate of pre-school education is partly due to the decline of children in absolute numbers over the past years. From 1995 until 2003 the number of children aged 1-6 years decreased by 103,600. In fact, the absolute number of children in pre-primary establishments remained stable (89,500) Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 10).

Parental leaves

	Maternity leave	Maternity leave II	Maternity/paternity leave
Duration	126-140 days (70 days before and 56-70 days after birth)	70 days before birth	From the end of maternity leave, up to 1 year of age of the child
Replacement rate	100%	75% of minimum subsistence level	70% [ILO: 60%]
Entitlement	Insured under Sickness and Maternity Law	Mothers not insured under Sickness and Maternity Law	Insured under Sickness and Maternity Law for 7 month during the last 24 month; either to (step)mother, (step)father, grandmother, grandfather or other relative

Sources: Center for equality advancement, 2005: 9

Innocenti Research Centre (2004a): 15

ILO on line

In Lithuania, there is a problem concerning the growing “number of families who cannot give appropriate care to their children”, i.e. “dysfunctional families” or “asocial families”¹. Parallel to this, in the 1990s there was an increase of children institutionalisation (Kabasinskaite and Bak; 2006: 249).

The Lithuanian child care system is a development of the former Soviet policy, based on institutionalisation. The social service system is very little developed and besides acquiring new competences functions thanks to a very limited staff. As reported by Kabasinskaite and Bak (2006: 250) the number of staff working with families and children in all Lithuanian municipalities was 35 in 2002. On the other hand “the main partner of municipalities in dealing with children and family issues is the police”. Services are fragmented and mainly provided by NGOs.

¹ According to Kabasinskaite and Bak (2006: 249-250) based on official statistics, in Lithuania the number of “dysfunctional families” rose from 9,709 in 1995 to 18,114 in 2001. The number of children in them rose from 25,604 in 1995 to 40,276 in 2001 (equal to 4.6% of the population aged 0-17).

16. Luxembourg

Summary: rather high fertility rate, low female employment. Very high social expenditure for this policy area. Very generous cash allowances and parental leaves, with high replacement rates. Scant information available about care services.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	455,000	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	16,196	3.6
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	17,267	3.8
<i>of which aged <6</i>	33,463	7.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.70	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		9.1
Children in single-mother families*		6.7

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	25.5	72.2	25.1	57.0
Female employment rate	21.3	68.4	24.9	53.7
<i>of which part time</i>				38.2

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	1624.6	3.5
Care services	264.4	0.6
Total	1889.1	4.1

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Children allowance	Child raising allowance
Entitlement	All children up to 18 (27 if in education)	Parent with a child under 2 years and either with no regular income or with income, cumulated with that of the husband/wife, not exceeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €4,235.16 when educating one child, • €5,646.88 when educating two children, • €7,058.60 when educating three or more children.
Amount	1st child: €185.60 2 children: €440.72 3 children: €802.74 Each subsequent child: €361.82	Allowance: € 485.01. Half the allowance is available in the case of part time employment.

Source: MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Age range	n.a.	n.a.
Content	n.a.	n.a.
Institutional level	n.a.	n.a.
Coverage	n.a.	n.a.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks (8 before and 8 after birth)	6 months for full timers; 12 months part times	
Replacement rate	Depend on earning, with a ceiling and a minimum	Flat rate Full-timers: € 1,651.38/month Part-timers: € 825.69/month	
Entitlement	Women insured for at least for 6 month in the previous year.	1 year service + 20 hours/week	

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.22,30.
ILO on line.

17. Malta

Summary: Low social expenditure, low fertility rate, very low women employment rate and meaningful difference between women with and without children. No information about childcare services available. Unpaid parental leave.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	402,668	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	11,837	2.9
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	12,694	3.2
<i>of which aged <6</i>	24,531	6.1
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.37	
School entry age	5	
Poverty rate for children		n.a
Children in single-mother families		n.a

Source: Eurostat

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	52.4	37.6	12.4	36.9
Female employment rate	43.9	35.4	12.4	33.7
<i>of which part time</i>				21.1

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	144.7	0.9
Care services	15.5	0.1
Total	160.2	1.0

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Children's allowance	Milk grant
Entitlement	Resident citizens who have the care of children under 16 years (21 above if in education or unemployed). Means tested (household income below €104/month in 2003*).	Head of a household receiving Social Assistance when he or any member of the household has the care or custody of a child under 40 weeks of age either weaned or losing weight in spite of being breast fed or is a member of a household receiving Tuberculosis Assistance.
Amount	1 child: max €87 2 children: max €131 3 children: max €175 4 children: max €218 Each additional child: € 44	€11/week
Institutional level		
Coverage		

Sources: * GVG 2003_Malta
MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Age range	n.a.	n.a.
Content	n.a.	n.a.
Institutional level	n.a.	n.a.
Coverage	n.a.	n.a.

Parental leaves

	Maternity leave	Maternity benefit	Parental leave
Duration	14 weeks (4 weeks before and 10 weeks after birth)	Lump sum payment of €530	a) 3 months until the age of 8 (private sector) b) 3 years + 1 year unpaid (public sector)
Replacement rate	100% for 13 weeks Unpaid for 1 week The leave may be extended to a further 1 year (unpaid)		Unpaid
Entitlement	Employed mothers	Women not entitled to maternity leave	Mother and Father

Sources: Center for Equality Advancement, 2005:9;
Council of Europe 2005, p.22.

18. The Netherlands

Summary: rather high fertility rate and female employment, with very high share of part-time work, often consisting in few hours/week. Universal fairly generous cash benefits. Coverage of childcare services varies according to the age, and is universal for children aged 4-6.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	16,305,526	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	597,919	3.7
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	615,785	3.8
<i>of which aged <6</i>	1,213,704	7.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.73	
School entry age	5	
Poverty rate for children*		9.8
Children in single-mother families*		8.1

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1999)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	70.8	79.0	36.5	70.0
Female employment rate	64.9	75.5	35.2	66.4
<i>of which part time</i>				75.1
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				9.4

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	204.5	0.8
Care services	145.2	0.5
Total	349.6	1.3

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	General child benefit
Entitlement	All children under 18. No means-tested
Amount	Children born from 1 January 1995 In €month per child Age 2004 0-5 59.29 6-11 72.00 12-17 84.71
Institutional level	State

Sources: OECD <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/56/36220151.pdf>
MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	<i>Gastouderopvang</i> (family day care)	<i>Kinderopvang</i> (child care centres)	Municipal early education services for disadvantaged children	Pre primary school
Entitlement/access				Compulsory at 5
Age range	0-4			4-6
Content				
Institutional level			municipality	
Coverage	23% of 0-4			Nearly 100%
Coverage II	89% of 2-4 years			

Source: OECD 2006, p.76

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks, 4 to 6 of which before birth*.	13 times the number of working hours/week per parent per child.* With the employer's agreement, can be taken for more hours during a shorter period, or for less hours during a longer period, and in 2 or 3 blocks of time.*	2 days, to be taken within four weeks after the birth of the child.*
Replacement rate	100% with ceiling	Unpaid. For participants in the life course saving schemes, tax reduction of 50% of the statutory minimum wage (€ 636/month in 2006) in case of full-time leave.*	100%, no ceiling, paid by the employer.*
Entitlement	All women employees. Self-employed women are not included*.	1 year of continuous employment with the present employer.	Male and female employees who are the partner of a woman giving birth or who acknowledge the child.*
Take-up	Compulsory: 100% is expected.	42% of eligible mothers took part-time leave (averaging 8 months at 12 hours/week). 16% of entitled men took part-time leave (averaging 10 months at 8 hours/week).	90% of entitled men took up some sort of leave. 51% had taken paternity leave. Most had taken holidays.

Source: OECD (2001) Starting Strong
Council of Europe 2005, p.22.

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

19. Poland

Summary: low fertility rate and very low female employment. Very low social expenditure, especially for services. Coverage of services (whose management passed from State to local authorities) for children aged 3-5 is limited (>40%), while for children <3 is higher than in many European countries.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	38,173,835	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	1,055,578	2.8
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	1,119,574	2.9
<i>of which aged <6</i>	2,175,152	5.7
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.24	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children*		12.7
Children in single-mother families*		9.9

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1999)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	31.8	76.4	21.5	58.1
Female employment rate	19.6	63.1	19.7	46.8
<i>of which part time</i>				14.3

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	97.7	1.0
Care services	0.4	0.0
Total	98.2	1.0

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Child birth grant	Family benefit
Entitlement	Universal	Parents or guardians; children above 18 if studying. EU citizens or non EU citizens with residence permit. Means tested (per capita income not exceeding 50% of the national average wages and salaries; in 2006 € 130/month.; €151/month for households with severely dependent children). For each child up to 16 years (21 if in education or 24 if in education and disabled) Supplements for single parents (means tested) Special allowances for handicapped children
Amount	€129 (lump sum) per child.	1 st child: €11 (2 % of average wage) 2 nd child: €14 3 rd child on: €17
Coverage		Decreasing due to means-testing since 1995.

Sources: Innocenti Poland

GVG 2003_Poland

MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Crèches	Kindergartens
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Content	n.a.	n.a.
Age range	0-2	3-6
Institutional level	Passed from State to local institutions	Passed from State to local institutions
Coverage (2001)	20.0	38.9

Source: Innocenti Poland

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks for first delivery; 18 weeks for subsequent deliveries; 26 weeks for multiple pregnancy.	Up to 3 years until age of four	2 weeks in case of 16 weeks maternity leave; 4 weeks in case of 18 weeks maternity leave; 12 weeks in case of 26 weeks maternity leave
Replacement rate	100%	€103/month (24 months for 1 child; 36 months for 2 children; 72 months for handicapped children)	100%
Entitlement	Insured women	6 months of employment or means tested benefit (monthly family income not exceeding 25% of the average wage)	Insured men

Sources: Council of Europe, 2005, p.22.

MISSOC 2006

20. Portugal

Summary: Southern European country, with comparatively low social expenditure (but higher than in Spain). Low fertility rate, but higher than in Spain and Italy. Coverage of services for children aged 3-5 is not yet universal (90% only for 5 year olds); coverage of services for children <3 is in line with Italy and Spain. Women with children work more than women without, due to income needs. Unpaid parental leaves, but small paternity leave with a compulsory 5 days period was introduced.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	10,529,255	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	333,506	3.2
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	331,991	3.2
<i>of which aged <6</i>	665,497	6.3
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.40	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		n.a.
Children in single-mother families*		n.a.

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	38.9	81.8	46.1	67.9
Female employment rate	31.4	74.9	43.7	61.7
<i>of which part time</i>				16.2
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				-3.8

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	117.6	0.7
Care services	129.9	0.8
Total	247.6	1.5

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

Child allowance																						
Entitlement	Parent with at least one child under 16 (24 if in education; + 3 years if disabled)																					
Amount	<p>Depends on family income and age of children (€/month).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Income level</th> <th><1 year</th> <th>>1 year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 (a)</td> <td>126.69</td> <td>31.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 (b)</td> <td>105.58</td> <td>26.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 (c)</td> <td>84.46</td> <td>24.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 (d)</td> <td>52.43</td> <td>20.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 (e)</td> <td>31.46</td> <td>10.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 (f)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(a) family income below 0.5 times the minimum salary (b) family income between 0.5 and 1 times the minimum salary (c) family income between 1.0 and 1,5 times the minimum salary (d) family income between 1.5 and 2.5 times the minimum salary (e) family income between 2.5 and 5 times the minimum salary (f) family income above 5 times the minimum salary</p> <p>Supplement in case of disabled children: for children up to 14: €53.91/month between 14 and 18: €78.51/month between 18 and 24: €105.10/month</p>	Income level	<1 year	>1 year	1 (a)	126.69	31.67	2 (b)	105.58	26.40	3 (c)	84.46	24.29	4 (d)	52.43	20.97	5 (e)	31.46	10.49	6 (f)	0	0
Income level	<1 year	>1 year																				
1 (a)	126.69	31.67																				
2 (b)	105.58	26.40																				
3 (c)	84.46	24.29																				
4 (d)	52.43	20.97																				
5 (e)	31.46	10.49																				
6 (f)	0	0																				
Institutional level	State																					
Coverage	Universal																					

Source: Missoc http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc2000/p_part9_en.htm
 MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Crèche	Kindergarten
Entitlement/access	Public structures: degree of family deprivation	Optional Priority is given to older children. And children with special needs
Age range	<3	3-6
Content	Care, well-being and development, prevention and social integration.	Personal and social development, social integration, pre-education.
Institutional level		
	4-11 hours/day	At least 5 hours/day. Max 40 hours/week.
Coverage 1996	11.1% (11.85% including mini-crèches)	60% children at age 3 and 90% from 5-6. National average for 3-6s is 76.3%*

Source: Ministry of education (2000)
 *OECD (2006), p-76

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Childcare leave*	Paternity leave
Duration	120 days, 90 of which after birth, 30 either before or after. 1 additional month for every additional child*	Individual and non transferable right: 3 months per parent full-time, or 12 month per parent part-time, or on an alternating basis. May be taken up to the child's 6 th birthday.*	After the parental leave, one of the parents may take 2 years special leave full-time, extended to 3 years when there is a 3rd or subsequent child, and to 4 years when there is a severely handicapped child.	20 days, 5 of which are compulsory and must be taken in the first month after childbirth.*
Replacement rate	120 days at 100% or 150 days at 80%*	Unpaid	Unpaid, except in case of handicapped child.	As for maternity leave.
Entitlement	All women with 6 months of continuous or intermittent insurance contribution. Mother must take at least 6 weeks, the rest can be taken by the father.* Self-employed workers who contribute to social security. In case of death or poor health of the mother, the father is entitled instead. A working grandparent is entitled to 30 days leave if an adolescent child still leaving at home has a child.	6 months of continuous or intermittent insurance contribution.*	The other partner must be working or incapable of working. Work contracts, rights and guarantees are suspended. The worker's right to return to his/her job is safeguarded.	6 months of continuous or intermittent insurance contribution.*
Coverage	About 2/3 of mothers are eligible. In 2005 about 25% has chosen the long option.*	n.a.		The 5 days were introduced in 1999 and made obligatory in 2003. 26% of fathers used them in 2002 and 38% in 2004. the other 15 days were used by 14% in 2002 and 29% in 2004.*

Source: OECD (2001) Starting Strong.

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006

Council of Europe (2005), p.22.

21. Slovakia

Summary: low fertility rate and female employment, with very low part-time share. Low spender, especially about care services, Means-test for cash allowances was recently removed. Average coverage of services.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	5,384,822	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	155,262	2.9
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	160,353	3.0
<i>of which aged <6</i>	315,615	5.9
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.25	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		2.0
Children in single-mother families*		9.6

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1992)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	32.4	82.1	18.1	61.5
Female employment rate	23.1	69.2	15.6	50.9
<i>of which part time</i>				4.1

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	150.6	1.3
Care services	14.6	0.1
Total	165.2	1.5

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Child allowance	Parental benefits
Entitlement	All permanent residents	Parent or responsible person for dependent child Residence in the Slovak Republic. (Means tested until 2002) Children under 16 years (25 if in education) Means tested supplements	Parent taking full day care of at least one child up to 3 years of age (6 in case of disability). If working, parent should earn less than half the minimum wage (€8/month in 2003). No earning limit for single mothers
Amount	€118 per child (supplement for multiple births)	€14/month per child Means tested supplements	€112/month
Institutional level	State	State	State

Sources: OECD <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/29/34005244.pdf>

GVG (2003) _ Slovak Republic, p.34-35.

MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Service 1	Kindergartens
Entitlement/access	n.a.	n.a.
Age range	1-2	2-5
Content	n.a.	n.a.
Institutional level	n.a.	n.a.
Coverage	17.7% (*)	68%

Sources: Innocenti on Slovakia

(*) OECD (year 2003)

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/13/37864698.pdf>

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave
Duration	28 weeks (extended to 37 for multiple deliveries and single women)	
Replacement rate	90% (maximum amount: € 9.29/day, € 6.64/day for self employed women)	€109 + €32 for second parent for 1 month until child reaches 3 months
Entitlement	Insured woman (270 days of contribution to sickness insurance in last 2 years)	

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.31.

ILO on line.

GVG (2003)_ Slovak Republic, p.29

22. Slovenia

Summary: low fertility rate, average women's employment with low part-time and mothers being more employed than women without children. Flexible parental leaves, pretty developed care services.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	1,997,590	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	53,099	2.7
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	54,144	2.7
<i>of which aged <6</i>	107,243	5.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.23	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		6.9
Children in single-mother families*		6.6

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1999)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	36.4	86.4	18.9	66.1
Female employment rate	29.8	81.1	18.5	61.3
<i>of which part time</i>				11.1
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O' Brien, 2006)				-1.5

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	239.8	1.4
Care services	103.5	0.6
Total	343.3	2.1

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Child benefit	Large-family supplement	Child care supplement																																				
Entitlement	Universal for all newborn children	Means-tested. Children from families where income per family member is below the average wage in Slovenia. For families with children under 18.	Universal for families with three or more children <18 or fulfilling status and age for child benefit.	Seriously ill or handicapped children																																				
Amount	In-kind or cash (€223 at 2002 prices). The level of benefit is adjusted once a year according to the consumer price index.	<p>Depends on family income and order of birth of the child</p> <p>€month (2006)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family income % of average wage</th> <th>Child 1</th> <th>Child 2</th> <th>Child 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><15%</td> <td>92</td> <td>101</td> <td>111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-25%</td> <td>79</td> <td>87</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-30%</td> <td>60</td> <td>67</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-35%</td> <td>47</td> <td>54</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-45%</td> <td>39</td> <td>45</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-55%</td> <td>25</td> <td>31</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55-75%</td> <td>18</td> <td>25</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75-99%</td> <td>16</td> <td>22</td> <td>28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The level of child benefit is adjusted once a year according to the consumer price index.</p> <p>Child benefits for children in single parent families are 10% higher.</p> <p>If a pre-school child is not enjoying available childcare services then the child benefit is increased by 20%.</p> <p>Special allowances for handicapped children.</p>	Family income % of average wage	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	<15%	92	101	111	15-25%	79	87	95	25-30%	60	67	74	30-35%	47	54	61	35-45%	39	45	52	45-55%	25	31	37	55-75%	18	25	31	75-99%	16	22	28	€ 312 at 2002 prices.	€ 80 or 160/month for seriously disabled children
Family income % of average wage	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3																																					
<15%	92	101	111																																					
15-25%	79	87	95																																					
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35-45%	39	45	52																																					
45-55%	25	31	37																																					
55-75%	18	25	31																																					
75-99%	16	22	28																																					

Sources: Innocenti on Slovenia
 GVG 2003 (Slovenia)
 MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Service 1	Service 2
Entitlement/access		
Age range	1-2	3-6
Content		
Institutional level		
Coverage	24.6%	70.2%

Source: GVG 2003_Slovenia

“The existing childcare facilities (most of them being public day-care centres) almost fully meet the demand for pre-school childcare. 1.9% of children whose parents applied for a place in the day-care centre were rejected in the school year 1999/2000”.

The average public subsidy amounts to some 65%-70% of the costs per child. A subsidy depends on the income per family member as compared to the average salary. If more than one child from a family attend the subsidised childcare programme, the fee for older children is decreased by one income group. Families on social assistance and those with income per family member below 25% of the average salary are exempt from paying fees altogether (in this group there were 4.2% of all children attending organised childcare in 2000). The pre-school educational programme in the year before the start of schooling is free of charge for all children” (GVG 2003_Slovenia, p.92-93).

Nursery school fees (*oskrbnina za vrtec*) are corresponded by parents based on their income as a percentage of the price of the programme. Parents pay at most 80 per cent and at least ten per cent of the programme's price. The municipality covers the difference between this payment and the programme's full price. Parents receiving Financial Social Assistance are exempt from co-payments.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	105 days (15 weeks), 4 weeks* before birth.	260 days (37 weeks). Each parent is entitled to the half, but the individual right may be transferred between parents. May be taken as 520 days of a half-time leave combined with part-time work. Up to 75 days may be taken until the child's 8 th birthday. If they are taken as single days, the total length of the leave is reduced by 30%. In case of unused leaves, it is possible to receive up to 5 monthly payments for childcare services or housing costs. If the mother is a student <18, one of the grandparents may take parental leave if insured.*	Up to 90 days (13 weeks). Fathers are obliged to take at least 15 days of full-time leave during the maternity leave. 75 days may be taken until the child's 8 th birthday. If they are taken as single days, the total length of the leave is reduced by 30%*
Replacement rate	100%, no ceiling, minimum being 55% of the minimum wage.*	100%, no ceiling, minimum being 55% of the minimum wage. If the leave is taken part-time, the benefit is reduced accordingly.*	100% for the first 15 days, with ceiling and minimum; only social contribution paid for the remaining 75 days (€ 78/month).
Entitlement	Insured women	Insured parents	Insured fathers
Coverage	All insured women	All mothers. 2.2% of fathers took a part of it in 2003 (0.6% in 1999).	63% of fathers took up to 15 days in 2003, 71% in 2004.*

Sources: Council of Europe 2005, p.30

ILO online

* Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

23. Spain

Summary: Southern European country. Low fertility rate and low – but growing – women’s employment. Very low social expenditure on this policy area, especially for care services. Importance of private supply in the ongoing development of supply, but also of the informal unregulated provision. Unpaid parental leave.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	43,038,035	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	1,324,680	3.1
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	1,251,942	2.9
<i>of which aged <6</i>	2,576,622	6.0
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.33	
School entry age	6	
Poverty rate for children*		16.1
Children in single-mother families*		6.9

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women’s participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	42.9	69.0	29.6	58.3
Female employment rate	32.8	61.5	27.45	51.2
<i>of which part time</i>				24.2
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, O’ Brien, 2006)				7.5

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies (2003)

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	87.2	0.4
Care services	40.6	0.2
Total	123.3	0.6

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Child benefit
Entitlement	All parents	Resident employees and assimilated with children up to 18 years of age or older handicapped children affected to a degree equal to 65 per cent or more. Means-tested
Amount	€450.76 for the third and subsequent births (supplements for multiple births)	In 2003: • Children under 18: a) No handicapped: €24.25/month b) Handicapped (at least 33%): €48.47/month. • Children over 18: a) Handicapped (at least 65%): €301.55/month. b) Handicapped (at least 75%) and needing the help of another person: €452.33/month. The right to entitlement will be the total benefit in the case of handicapped children. In the case of non handicapped children, the right to entitlement will be the total benefit, provided it does not exceed the upper limit of €8,264.28/year, increased by 15%, (€1,239.64/year), for each child after the second one.
Institutional level	State	State
Coverage		

Source: OECD <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/31/34/36215956.pdf>
MISSOC 2006

Care service description

	Crèches	Infant school (Escuela de Educacion Infantil)
Entitlement/access		
Age range	0-2	3-5
Content	Care, reconciliation of family-work, socialisation	Pre-education
Institutional level	Municipalities	State-funded
Opening hours	Flexible	Part-time (25 hours/week)
Coverage	17.3%	94.8%

Source: Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, <http://www.mec.es/mecd/estadisticas>

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	16 weeks (at least 6 after birth). Before birth can be taken part-time. Up to 10 weeks can be transferred to the father, if insured, or shared on a part-time basis.*	Up to 3 years. Individual right of each parent. Return to the job position is guaranteed during the first year. Between year 1-3, return guarantee is restricted to a job of the same category. Can be taken in an unlimited number of periods, without minimum length. Regional governments may improve entitlements, and public employees have better conditions.*	2 days. A number of regional governments have improved entitlements. Public employees receive 10 days*
Replacement rate	100% with ceiling.	Unpaid. Social contributions for the first year.	100%, paid by the employer.
Entitlement	Employed and self-employed women with 180 days of contribution in previous 5 years	All employees. Temporary employees can only claim a leave shorter than his/her contract length.*	All employees. Self-employed receive no benefits.*
Coverage		50% of fathers and 24% of mothers were eligible in 2000. take-up corresponded to 1.7 of births in 1995 and to 3.7 in 2000 (only 1% of children <3)*.	

Sources: Council of Europe, 2005, p.31.

ILO online

*Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

24. Sweden (*)

Summary: Scandinavian country, big spender. High fertility rate and women's employment, with a relevant share of part-time. Articulated system of maternity, paternity and parental leaves. No age range in care services; high coverage levels, increasing with age. Very low child poverty rate.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2005)	9,011,392	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	298,996	3.3
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	277,702	3.1
<i>of which aged <6</i>	576,698	6.4
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.77	
School entry age	7	
Poverty rate for children*		4.2
Children in single-mother families*		17.8

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 2000)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	51.3	86.5	69.0	76.3
Female employment rate	39.8	81.1	66.7	70.4
<i>of which part time</i>				39.6
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, 2006)				n.a.

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Similarly to other Scandinavian countries, Sweden succeeded more than all other European countries to ensure family friendly working conditions. The country shows very high women labour market participation rates, throughout the life cycle, also for women with children. Still, this was obtained at the price of a relatively consistent occupational segregation of women in public sector and low and intermediate positions.

Gender equality has been a major concern and a political priority of social-democratic governments for several decades now. Although major attempts to treat men and women equally as workers and carers, and although having actually gone farther in this regard than the rest of European countries, equality is far from being reached. Even here women bear most of care and family responsibilities, despite a wider externalisation of care tasks and a somewhat bigger share of these undertaken by men, in comparison to other countries.

Social expenditure on child care policies

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	396.1	1.6
Care services	358.4	1.5
Total	754.5	3.1

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Child allowance	Allowance for sick and disabled children
Entitlement	All children under the age of 16 and children aged 16 or above and attending secondary education.	Parents of sick and disabled children (<19)
Amount 2005	<p>€112/month for each child. Supplement for families with more than 1 child:</p> <p>for 2nd child: €11/month for 3rd child: €38/month for 4th child: €92/month for 5th and subsequent children: €112/month</p> <p>Single parents are guaranteed €135/month either from child support payments from the other parent or advanced maintenance allowance from the state.</p>	Related to the needs of the child and paid at quarter, half, three-quarter or full rate. The maximum allowance is €880.
Institutional level	State	State

Sources: Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (2005)

MISSOC 2006

The generous universal family allowances are acknowledged by literature to be connected with very low rates of children poverty. The high socialisation of costs of children, combined with parental leaves regulation and service provision is also indicated as a factor explaining a relatively high fertility rate, in comparison to the EU average.

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	12 weeks No general entitlement. Pregnant women are eligible for 50 days of leave paid at 80% of income if they work in injurious jobs involving risk to the foetus. Other pregnant women may use paid parental leave or sick leave up to 60 days before the baby is due. *	18 months (480 days) of paid leave: 60 days only for the mother, 60 days only for the father. The remaining 360 days is a family entitlement, half of which are reserved to one parent and half to the other; if days are transferred from one parent to the other, the first one must sign a consent. Paid leave can be taken at any time until the child's 8 th birthday, full-time, part-time, quarter-time, or one-eight-time, with the length of leave extended accordingly. In addition, each parent is entitled to unpaid leave until a child is 18 months. Leave can be taken in one period or several blocks, up to three periods/year*	10 working days Can be used at any time during the first 60 days after childbirth.* + 60 days of fathers' quota (use-or-lose) of parental leave.*
Replacement rate	100% with upper limit	390 days at 80% with ceiling (€31,935/year. In 2004, 10% of mothers and 29% of fathers had incomes above the ceiling). Then 90 days at flat-rate (€ 6.7/day). Non eligible parents receive € 20/day for 390 days, the € 6.7/day for 90 days.*	80% with upper limit. To get the maximum compensation a father needs to be employed for at least 240 days before the childbirth date. Otherwise the low guarantee level is € 6.7/day. Mothers can take leave, e.g. when paternity is not established.*
Entitlement	Women working in injurious jobs involving risk to the foetus.*	All parents are entitled to paid parental leave, but in order to get the 80% replacement rate, parents must have had an income of over € 6.7/day for 240 days before the expected day of delivery. A parent remains qualified if another child is born or adopted within 30 months from the former.*	Employed and self-employed fathers. Compensation for self-employed varies depending on the level of corporate tax paid.*
Coverage	Between 1994 and 2004, around 25% of pregnant women, for an average of 38 days.*	Almost all families. Fathers are more likely to take part-week leave (e.g. 1 day/week).*	In 2004, about 80% of fathers, for an average of 9.7 days.*

Sources: OECD (2001) Starting Strong.

*Moss, 2006

Sweden has probably the most advanced combination of maternity and paternity compulsory leaves and parental voluntary leaves; the latter consist in their turn of an efficient mixture of individual and couple right, of use-or-lose gendered entitlement and couple entitlement, of high replacement rate for the initial period and lower (but still generous) for the further period. Entitlement for parental leaves was extended to fathers ever since 1974. The combination of leaves and care system points at a prevalent care pattern according to which children are cared for within the family (with a combination of mother's and father's commitment) for the first year of life, and then are massively inserted in a out-of-home care facility.

Care services description

	Pre-schools	Family day care homes	Universal pre-schools
Entitlement/access	Since 1995, Municipalities were obliged to provide childcare without unreasonable delay for children between 1-12 years whose parents work, study or have a special need for childcare. Maximum fees between 1 and 3% of family income, according to the birth ranking of the child. Entitlement is universal and free of charge for children aged 4-6.		
	If a parent loses his/her job, in 40% of Municipalities children lose their place in childcare. In another 40% of M. they get a reduced time of childcare.		
Age range	1-5		
Content	Pedagogical Reconciliation	Reconciliation	Socialization for children not enrolled in services, and for their parents
Institutional level	Mostly municipal (13% non municipal, mostly parental cooperatives).		
Opening hours	Full time	Flexible, including also evening or week-ends according to parents' working-schedules.	
Coverage 2003*	61% of 1-5 year olds 40% of 1 year olds 80% of 2-3 year olds 90% of 4-5 year olds	7% of 1-5 year olds (more in rural areas, less in large cities)	
Waiting list	95% of Municipalities provide places for pre-school children after a maximum of 3-4 months.		

Sources: OECD (1999) Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in Sweden.

* Martin Korpi, B. (2004)

The pre-school childcare system was unified ever since 1968, disregarding age range and special needs. Requests of feminist movements were pressing towards universal provision and high quality. Since 1975 Municipalities are obliged to provide at least 525 hours/year of service gratis for every child <6 years of age. During the Eighties the pace of the development of public services was not enough to absorb the growing demand. Non for profit services, especially parents' cooperatives, developed mainly for a concern of diversification of pedagogical approach and contents, and for a greater involvement of parents in the care of their children without renouncing to early socialization, but also in order to contain the costs (parents carry out many tasks directly). Since 1985 they are entitled to public financing, and their number has considerably grown since (Pestoff, 1998). During the Nineties also some for profit providers appeared, in response to the waiting lists originated by the baby boom and the higher and higher participation of mothers in the labour market, but despite some public financing, they still represent a marginal quota of supply.

Parents pay a monthly charge for day care services.

In order to be eligible for government grant, the local municipality must charge fees for the pre-school service at a maximum rate of three, two and one per cent, respectively of a household's income (before tax) for the first, second and third child in the family. Fees may not exceed €935/month for the first child, €623 for the second and €312 for the third child. (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2005)

Comments on institutional arrangements trends, problems, issues at stake

Socialisation of the cost of childcare has been wide for decades, but because the system is very generous, it is also very expensive, and suffers from the cost disease risk (Baumol, 1967). During the Nineties, several Municipalities increased the level of childcare services' fees, on the basis of family income level, but also of the number of hours of care used. This has widened the existing difference among Municipalities. In 2002 a ceiling was introduced (Maxtaxa) in order to contain fees and contrast inequalities in access to care facilities.

Other issues:

- increasing territorial differences;
- female occupational segregation. The externalization of care and other housework activities does originate a virtuous cycle, calling for more labour demand, but it also causes a sort of entrapment of women in the service sector because: a) even out of the family, care is still seen as a primarily feminine activity; and b) jobs in the public sector better guarantees family friendly conditions, and in particular short full-time or long part-time patterns, which are still more requested by women;
- despite signs of improvement, significant gender gaps are still to be observed about the share of time dedicated to care activities. Take-up of leaves are comparatively higher for men, but still rather low, and concern shorter periods.

25. United Kingdom (*)

Summary: Anglo-Saxon country. High fertility rate, average women's employment but relevant difference between women with and without children. Low expenditure, especially for care services. Unpaid parental leaves discourage fathers' take-up (except a limited paternity leave). Coverage of services has been growing significantly in the last years, as part of a social inclusion strategy, but provision is mainly part-time.

Demographic framework

	Absolute value	%
Total population (2004)	59,699,828	
<i>of which aged 0-2</i>	2,026,228	3.4
<i>of which aged 3-5</i>	2,067,467	3.5
<i>of which aged <6</i>	4,093,695	6.9
Total fertility rate (2005)	1.80	
School entry age	5	
Poverty rate for children*		15.3
Children in single-mother families*		21.7

Source: Eurostat

* LIS (year 1999)

Women's participation in the labour market (average 2005)

	Aged 15-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 15-64
Female activity rate	59.1	77.4	49.0	68.8
Female employment rate	52.5	74.8	48.1	65.9
<i>of which part time</i>				42.7
Difference in employment rates between women without children and women with child aged 0-6, age-group 20-50, year 2005 (Moss, 2006)				21.2

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

Social expenditure on child care policies

	Purchasing power parities per inhabitant	% GDP
Cash allowances	359.4	1.4
Care services	94.7	0.4
Total	454.2	1.8

Source: Eurostat

Cash allowances description

	Birth grant	Child benefit	Child Tax Credit
Entitlement	Means tested; for beneficiaries of social assistance benefits	Parents of a child under 16 (or under 20 if still in education) Not means tested	Persons over 16 and responsible for at least one child
Amount 2006	€728	€ 107/month (for the oldest child) € 72/month (for all other children)	Depends on income and family situation.
Institutional level		State	State

Source: MISSOC 2006

Parental leaves

	Compulsory maternity leave	Parental leave	Paternity leave
Duration	26 (39 for children due after April 2007) or 52 weeks, depending on the time a mother has worked for her employer. Can start from the 11 th week before the expected delivery date.*	13 weeks per parent per child (individual right), to be taken in blocks, up to 4 weeks/year, up to the child's 5 th birthday.*	2 weeks, to be taken during the first 8 weeks of the child's life.*
Replacement rate	90% for 6 weeks, then flat rate (max €156/week in 2003) for 20 weeks (statutory maternity pay). The remaining 26 weeks are unpaid. Many employers' provisions go beyond the statutory minimum.*	Unpaid.	Flat-rate (€156/week).
Entitlement	Only women employees who have completed 26 weeks continuous employment with their present employer, ending with the 15 th week before delivery are entitled to 52 weeks. Other employed and self-employed women are entitled only to 26 weeks.* Women who do not meet the work and earnings conditions for Statutory Maternity Pay but have worked but for at least 26 weeks in the 66 weeks before the (expected) date of birth get a similar 'Maternity Allowance'	All employees who have completed 1 year's continuous employment with their present employer and who have parental responsibility for a child.*	Employees who are biological father or mother's husband or partner, have child's upbringing responsibilities and have worked for their employer for at least 26 weeks, ending with the 15 th week before the baby is due*.
Take-up	Since the extension of maternity leave in 2003, the proportion of mothers taking 18 weeks or less fell from 42% in 2002 to 9% in 2005; of mothers taking 5-7 months increased from 33% to 50%; of those taking more than 9 months increased from 9% to 25%.*	Parental leave is not used widely, at least in the first 17 months of a child's life. In 2005, 11% of mothers had taken some parental leave after maternity leave (it was 8% in 2002). 2/3 of them had taken a week or less. 8% of fathers had taken some parental leave within the first 17 months of their child's life, 3/4 of them for less than a week.*	The proportion of fathers taking more than 2 weeks rose from 22% in 2002 to 36% in 2005.*

Sources: OECD (2001) Starting Strong.

*Moss, O' Brien, 2006.

**Economic and Social Research Council, *Parenting in the UK*.

Care services description

	Opportunity groups	Pre-schools/Playgroups
Entitlement/access	Children with special needs	Legal entitlement to part-time education for 3-4 year olds
Age range	<3	2-5
Content	Facilitate entry in schooling	Socialization, pedagogy orientation
Institutional level	Local educational authorities or social services department	England + Scotland: Education; North Ireland + Wales: Welfare
Coverage	26% of 0-3	95% of 3-4 100% 4-5

Source: Bertram and Pascal 2000
EYCIEP 2003
OECD 2006, p.76

Comments on institutional arrangements trends, problems, issues at stake

The Childcare Act of 2006 requires local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. Childcare will only be deemed sufficient if meets the needs of the community in general and in particular those families on lower incomes and those with disabled children. Local authorities take the strategic lead in their local childcare market, planning, supporting and commissioning childcare. Local authorities are not expected to provide childcare direct but are expected to work with local private, voluntary and independent sector providers to meet local need. Local authorities have the duty to secure a free minimum amount of early learning and care for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents want it.

Reconciling work and family life

Historically, public childcare services in UK have been targeted to households in need, and the public provision has traditionally been limited in this field.

According to the approach of the conservative Governments during the Eighties and first part of the Nineties, although an emphasis was put on the family responsibilities as a means to maintain social order, decisions about the allocation of time between housework and care work or paid work for the market were mainly considered private individual and family choices. Protection of women's employment was also considered an interference into the employers-employees market interplay.

As a consequence. Coverage of early childcare services has traditionally been very low; coverage of pre-school facilities (4-5 year olds) has been higher, but comparatively low as well. Moreover, care is often provided only on a part-time basis. Well-off families would turn to the market (individual bargaining with childminders).

The Blair New Labour Government launched ever since 1997 a National Childcare Strategy to improve quantity and quality of childcare provision. The aim is not only to allow parents (mothers) to work, thus reducing the poverty risk, but also to provide children with high quality level socialization and early education. Priority in allocation of public resources has been given to depressed areas, according to a number of socio-economic indicators. Local partnerships (EYDCP – Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership) have been favoured in order to bring existing childcare services, health and social services and non profit actors to work together. As a matter of fact, division of responsibilities between Education and Health Ministries has traditionally damaged the development of a childcare system.

In particular, a legal entitlement for the 3-4 year olds (5 is the school entry age) was introduced, even if only part-time. The objective was reached for 4 year olds, and is currently being pursued for 3 year olds. Excellence centres (opportunity groups) have been set up for children with special needs identified by social services.

Attention is being devoted to widen also the daily opening and to combine quality with quantity, not only from the structural, but also pedagogical point of view (Moss, 2006).

Self-help groups of parents also have some importance in providing early childcare.

Childcare is seen as a social investment from the political point of view. As a consequence, the workfare approach that characterises the last development of British social assistance and unemployment measures is not applied in case of motherhood: mothers in economic need are entitled to income support without being asked to work as a compensation.

Financial burden of childcare on household budgets

It depends on the income level of households. Households that do not correspond to social priority targets, buy care on the market (less and less so for the 3-4 years age range); although the cost of this care provision is kept low, it can nevertheless weigh heavily on average income level households.

However, free childcare for targeted households is only granted part-time (2.5 hours/day). The lack of financially accessible care is often a barrier for the employment of women in low and average income level households.

Problems, issues at stake

- growing but still low public expenditure on the policy area;
- growing but still low childcare coverage;
- due to limited resources, number of hours of free childcare is too limited to answer to reconciliation issues;
- cost of private childcare unaffordable for most households;
- weight of informal sector;

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