Child care in Slovenia

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‘Economics at the service of society’

Slovenia is a great country to live in:

- small (2.1 million, 20,273 km²)
- moderate climate and diverse landscape
- low crime rates / generally safe
- well functioning and accessible public services
- low risk of poverty or social exclusion
Economics in the service of society?

Source: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (subtitles: A. Del Fabro)
Some macroeconomic indicators

• GDP current prices (2017): 43 billions EUR => 20.815 EUR per capita
• GDP per capita PPP: 85 % EU-28
• GDP growth (2017): 4,9 %
• Unemployment rate (2nd Q 2018): 5,5 %
• Inflation rate (2017): 1,7 %
• General government revenue (2017): 43 % of GDP
General government expenditure by function, Slovenia, 2016

- Social protection: 16.7%
- Health: 6.7%
- General public services: 6.6%
- Education: 5.7%
- Economic affairs: 4.5%
- Public order and safety: 1.7%
- Recreation, culture and religion: 1.4%
- Defence: 0.9%
- Environment protection: 0.6%
- Housing and community amenities: 0.4%

Source: SURS
Quality of life in Slovenia

- Life expectancy at birth (2017): 81.3 years
- People at risk of poverty (2017): 13.3%
- Gender pay gap (2016): 7.8%
- NEET (15-19 year-old, 2016): 11.6%
- Infant mortality rate (2017): 1.7‰

- Child well-being index
Share of women (aged 20-49) with children that work (around 95 % full time):

- with one child: 79,2 % (EU 71,3%)
- with two children: 83,5% (EU 70,3%)
- with three or more children 80,4% (EU 54,7%).
What is our thing? How do we do it?

We rely heavily on public providers of public services
- child care
- social services
- health care
- education
Helping parents with comprehensive care for children:

- long and fully compensated parental leave
- early childhood education and care
- extended stay in school (out of school care)
- leave for the care of a sick child
Leave (395 days; 100 % wage compensation):

- maternity leave (105 days)
- paternity leave (30 days)
- parental leave (130 + 130 days) - can be extended for:
  - twins; triplets… (+90; +180… days)
  - parents with two/three/four+ small children (+30/60/90 days)
  - child in a need of special care (+90 days)
Early childhood education and care:

- from 11 months old to school age
- mostly (90%) public (municipality) kindergartens
- kindergarten teacher plus assistant in every group
- high quality programme
- food included (breakfast, lunch & two snacks)
- max. 9 hours per day
- parents pay from 0 – 77% of the full price (485/346 € in Lj. => max. 380/266 €)
Obligation of municipality

• If there is no public kindergarten, or the kindergarten has no available places on the territory of a municipality of parents' permanent residence and parents express interest for admission of enough children to fulfil a class in compliance with standards and norms, the municipality is obligated to begin the process to ensure enough available spaces in the public kindergarten or to grant a concession within 30 days.

• From 2007-2017, the municipality of Ljubljana opened 96 new pre-school classes (from 11 months to 6 years old)
Extended stay in school (out of school care):

- form of educational process that the school organizes after mandatory school lessons
- from first to fifth grade (6 – 11 years old)
- Includes:
  - independent learning (homework),
  - relaxation,
  - creative spending of time (attending sport and cultural activities organized by school)
  - nutrition
Leave for the care of a sick child

- one of the parents
- up to 15 working days per illness
- can be extended in special cases
- compensation: 80 % of previous year average salary
Resolution /national plan/ on family policy 2018 – 2028 “Society friendly to all families”

- adopted by parliament in February 2018
- the first national strategic document on family in Slovenia after 25 years
- goals, measures and indicators in 9 fields

Family is important to 98% of Slovenes according to 2015 survey.
Main principles:
- including all types of families
- protecting children’s rights
- promoting gender equality
- respecting the autonomy of family and individuality of family members
- universal access to family policy measures
- tailor-made measures
Three main goals:
- Improvement of the quality of living for families, especially children
- Protection of families and individual family members, especially children
- Creating conditions, that will encourage people to start a family / have more children
Some measures we wish to implement in next years:

- Fee exemption for the second child and each further child if more than one child is enrolled in a pre-school institution at the same time

- Kindergarten fee exemption for the youngest child if two children are in the first triad of primary school

- Raising awareness of the positive aspects of integrating children into the pre-school education system

- Raising the parents' awareness of available forms of childcare and education

- Providing a range of pre-school education and childcare programmes taking place in the afternoon, at night and at weekends for children whose parents work less favourable working hours and in areas where this is necessary
Thank you for your attention!

For more information do not hesitate to contact me on:

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