The role of family policies and programmes to address child poverty
• PLURALISTIC ORGANIZATION
• FOUNDED IN 1958
• 58 ORGANISATIONS IN 23 MEMBER STATES
• VALUES: NON-DISCRIMINATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY, SOLIDARITY, EMPOWERMENT
• HOLISTIC – LIFE CYCLE APPROACH
• ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTEREST OF ALL TYPES OF FAMILIES
• MONITOR EU INITIATIVES, BUILD THE CAPACITY OF COFACE NETWORK

A BETTER SOCIETY FOR ALL FAMILIES
Child poverty
a multidimensional phenomenon

In 2016 26.9% of children, meaning almost 25 million children under 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU.

Main factors influencing child poverty:
- Monetary poverty
- Education level of parents
- Family composition (large families, single parents, disability)
- Low work intensity
- Migrant background

Member States can tackle child poverty through:
• Employment policies
• Preventing in-work poverty
• Effective income support

Supporting parents is a fundamental prerequisite for protecting children’s rights.

A better society for all families

Source: adapted from the UNICEF's rights-based approach to multidimensional child poverty measurement (UNICEF and Global Coalition to end Child Poverty, 2017; Chichén, Brücklau, Toczydlowska, 2017).
Family policies at national level PATTERNS (OECD countries)

Comprehensive support/public aid through social assistance programs
FI, DK, FR, SW

Comprehensive support/stronger familization of aid
IE, DE, BE, AU, NL, MT

Limited support/Stronger familization of aid
SK, CZ, EE, LUX, SI, PT, HU, BG, PL, RO, HR

Limited support/public aid through social assistance programs
SP, GR, IT

The family-friendly policies introduced by Nordic countries over the past 50 years and associated increases in female employment have boosted growth in GDP per capita by between 10% and 20%
Children at risk of poverty in the EU 2010 - 2017

The poverty rate in the EU decreased from 27.5 in 2010 to 26.4 in 2017.

Highest rates:
RO, BG, GR, IT, LTU, HU

Lowest rates:
HR, DK, FIN, SI, NL, PL, GER

Increasing:
GR, IT, CY, LUX,
(Greece and Italy do not have social assistance schemes)

Strongly decreasing:
RO, BG, HU, IE, EE, PL, HR
Pillar 1: Access to resources
Pillar 2: Access to affordable quality services
Pillar 3: Children’s right to participate

European Semester
Country Specific Recommendations on CHILD POVERTY - INCOME SUPPORT - SOCIAL PROTECTION - ECEC - EDUCATION-EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING - AFFORDABLE HOUSING - ECONCILIATION ACCESS TO HEALTH - ROMA-RELATED

Work-life Balance Directive
European Funds
SHARED MANAGEMENT: ERDF, FEAD, ESF, CAP
DIRECT MANAGEMENT: H2020, EaSI, AMIF

... CHILD GUARANTEE?

2012 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU
Article 9: Right to marry and found a family
Art 33: Family and Professional Life

EU 2020 - Recommendation ’Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage
Pillar 1: Access to resources
Pillar 2: Access to affordable quality services
Pillar 3: Children’s right to participate

2017 European Pillar of Social Rights
Principle 1: Education and training
Principle 2: Gender Equality
Principle 9: Work-life Balance
Principle 11: Childcare and support to children
Principle 14: Minimum income

EU ACTION

Framework

Instruments
Multi-dimensional approach

**INTERGENERATIONAL-LIFECYCLE APPROACH** - Family policies have to tackle the needs of the children, of the parents and of the grandparents at the same time.

**INTEGRATED-MULTIDIMENSIONAL STRATEGIES** must be put in place in a number of areas including EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, GENDER EQUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION, ACCESS TO SERVICES, SOCIAL INCLUSION, HOUSING, HEALTH, DISABILITY, LONG-TERM CARE, INCOME SUPPORT, YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT, GOVERNANCE.

**ACCESSIBLE, AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE, TAILOR-MADE SUPPORT** - Families are different in their size, composition, ethnic origins, socio-economic backgrounds and religious beliefs and they need a tailor-made support allowing all family members to be fully integrated in their communities.

In nowadays society, families need a combination of **RESOURCES, TIME and SERVICES** to be fully included in society.

Families, children and persons with disabilities want to have their say on the policies addressing them, **GOVERNANCE** structures have to ensure a **RIGHTS-BASED PARTICIPATORY APPROACH**.
**Multi-dimensional approach**

In other words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to resources: Parental employment and family benefits</th>
<th>Access to services</th>
<th>Integrated anti-poverty strategy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Low effective marginal tax rate</td>
<td>• ECEC (affordable, accessible, inclusive, high quality)</td>
<td>• Data, targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Progressive and individualised taxation</td>
<td>• Housing (adequate and affordable)</td>
<td>• Multi-sectoral, multi-agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parental leave, paternity leave</td>
<td>• Health (preventive health, parenting support)</td>
<td>• Multi-level</td>
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<td>• Cross-departmental</td>
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<td>• Single access points</td>
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Family policies at national level
Example of interventions

**CASH INCOME BENEFITS**
- family/child allowance: general or targeted (singles mothers, large families, low-income families, self-employed)
- Parental/paternity leave, in-work benefit schemes, vouchers, lump-sum payments, social tickets, tax reductions, rent subsidies, grants, loans, personal care allowance

**BENEFITS IN KIND**
- parenting support, affordability, availability and quality of ECEC, access to education (target: children with disabilities, Roma, migrants, low-income households), Integrated community centres, preschool, child care, all day school places, community-based services, free meals in crèches, primary schools

![Diagram showing distribution of family policies benefits](chart.png)

(1) Data are provisional
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sprexp_fla)
Structural Funds for family policies
EXAMPLES

**ESF**
- Certificates for Family Friendly businesses
- Family Centres
- Work-life Balance
- Parenting Support
- Training to foster families
- Training for home carers
- Support to migrant mothers
- Help for Homeless Families

**FEAD**
Children benefit from the biggest proportion of it including:
- School materials
- School meals
- Basic material assistance
- Items for newborn babies
- Literacy support
- Day camps
- Social inclusion initiatives (counselling, workshops, information on services)
In 2017 the ESPN Assessment of EU Member States’ national policies for children revealed that the progress made to implement the 2013 Recommendation on Investing in children is INSUFFICIENT TO THE SCALE OF CHILD POVERTY PROBLEM:

• Only 4 countries (EE, FR, IE, MT) have taken initiatives to strengthen their policies/approaches and programmes in a significant number of areas.

• Another 7 countries (BG, LT, LV, NL, PT, SI, SK) have also made some improvements;

• Very limited progress has been made in most areas in those Member States with high or very high levels of child poverty or social exclusion (CY, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, RO, UK)
CONCLUSIONS

• Current developments in the area of child and family policy in the EU is on a multi-dimensional and rights-based approach mixing income support, employment-related measures, service provision and partnership.

• The EU role is important in the policy approach to child poverty as well as in providing funding.

• At the national level, addressing child poverty requires strong labour policies focused on increasing household income through the parents’ participation in work, but also measures to supplement household income and facilitate access to public services and social participation.

• Adequate resources must be provided through a combination of universal policies guaranteeing a minimum level of income and services for all and targeted measures to reach out to the most disadvantaged.

• Fighting child poverty also needs political will!
Thank you!
Changes in child and family policies in the EU28 in 2017 European platform for investing in children: annual thematic report

Jonathan Bradshaw & Yekaterina Chzhen, Child poverty policies across Europe

Progress across Europe in the implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on ‘Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage’ A study of national policies 2017, ESPN

Is the Last Mile the Longest? Economic Gains from Gender Equality in Nordic Countries, OECD, 2017

Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion, Eurostat, Statistic Explained

Social Scoreboard, Composite indicators

FEAD Thematic Dossier 4: Addressing Child Poverty And Well-being Through Fead