Child care services – demographic and social context –

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Outline of the presentation

1. General context
2. Demographic processes
3. Childbearing and labour market participation
4. Poverty and social exclusion
5. Family policies and the Visegrád countries in Europe
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General context
The availability and the quality of childcare services:

- affect parents’ decisions on childbearing and labour supply
- affect household resources needed for social inclusion
  - in short term: parental resources
  - in long-term: child development

Breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty

LM participation

Childcare services

Social inclusion

Child development

Childbearing

Work-life balance
Use of childcare and Barcelona target, 2010

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Demographic processes in the Visegrád countries
Falling fertility in the Visegrád countries, 1950-2010

Falling share of the population aged 0-4 as % of total population, 1950-2010

3

Childbearing and labour market participation
Maternal employment rates compared to female employment rates, 2011

OECD average maternal employment rate = 65.2%

Visegrád countries
- low maternal employment (similar to the Southern countries)
- the gap between female and maternal employment is large (among the largest within the OECD)
- Poland is an exception (with higher than OECD-average figures)

Source: OECD Family Database.
Maternal employment rates by age of youngest child, 2011

- Huge disparities in ME by the age of child
- Very low employment for mothers with a child younger than 3 (among the lowest within OECD)
- Poland is again an exception
- Not the same pattern for mothers with an older child

Source: OECD Family Database.
Maternal employment rates by number of children under 15, 2011

Source: OECD Family Database.
Female employment and fertility

The negative relationship predicted by economic theory changed in the 1980’s.


Source: OECD Family Database.
Female employment and fertility

Cross-sectional macro-level correlations might be misleading. At micro level, the negative relationship is still there, although weakened in this period. Engelhardt, Kögel and Prskawetz 2001; Engelhardt and Prskawetz 2002; Kögel 2003; Kögel 2006.

Source: OECD Family Database.
Poverty and social exclusion
Relative outcomes of countries related to child poverty risk and main determinants of child poverty risk, 2010

Visegrád countries
- Considerable variation across V4
- Czech Republic: good (but not very good) performance in all dimensions
- Hungary: the risk of poverty is strongly related to poor LM outcomes. Cash transfers and LM participation are protective
- Slovakia: the risk of poverty is strongly related to poor LM outcomes.
- Poland: in-work poverty is the concern

Use of childcare and number of hours (factor)
Children aged less than 3

- **Use of childcare and gradient**
- **Gradensity in the use of childcare (based on mother's level of education)**

- **low use of childcare, large gradient**
- **large use of childcare, large gradient**
- **large use of childcare, low gradient**
- **low use of childcare, low gradient**

Family policies and the Visegrád countries in Europe
Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, in per cent of GDP, 2009

Visegrád countries
- Considerable variation across countries
- Czech Republic, Slovakia: spend near OECD average
- Hungary: spends at Scandinavian level, strongly cash focused
- Poland: spends at Mediterranean level.

Source: OECD Family Database.
Family policy country groups

**Most flexible**
- high female employment rate
- high part-time rate
- good childcare provision
- generous leave and benefits
- good work-life balance

**Mixed, mainly flexible**
- medium or high female employment rate
- good childcare options, or significant recent efforts to increase these
- mix of traditional policies and flexible policies

**Mixed, mainly traditional**
- usually low female employment rate
- low part-time rate
- few children in childcare
- long parental leave

**Most traditional (family-oriented)**
- few children in full-time childcare or relatives commonly look after children
- low female employment rate
- support to large families

Source: Eurofound 2014.
Thank you for your attention!

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