



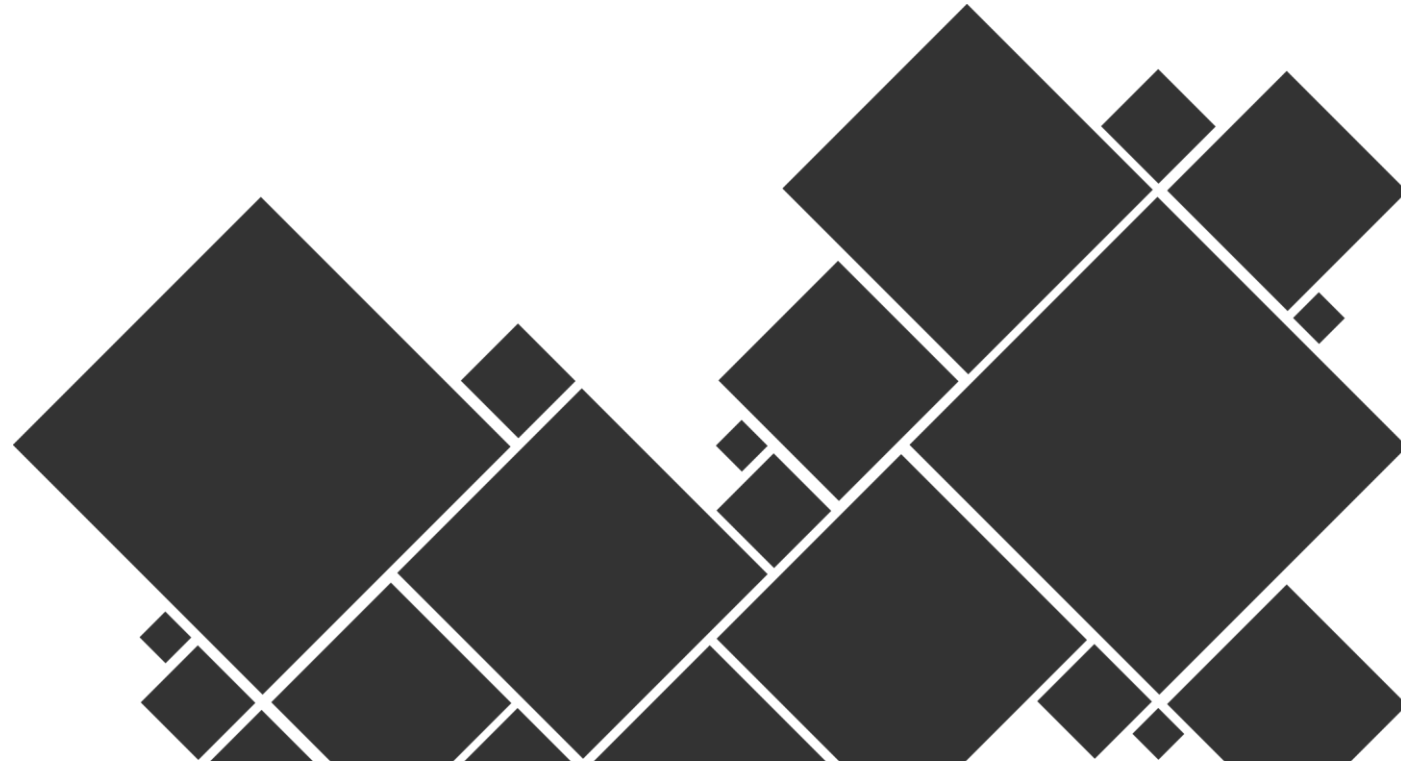
Norwegian Ministry  
of Labour and Social Affairs

# Situation of single mothers/fathers in Norway

Peer Review on “Single mothers facing poverty: Providing adequate financial, material and social support for sustainable social integration”

Genk, 5 and 6 October 2017

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# Situation of single mothers/fathers

- 5% of *all households* is a single parent household
- 17% of *all households with children* is a single parent household
- High labour market participation, also among single parents
- Single parents overrepresented in the low-income group

# Policy framework

- Universal access to **public services**; day care, education and health services
  - Day care centers and after-school programs commonly available
  - Legal right to day care when child is 1 year old
  - Maximum rate and shielding arrangements for low-income families (day care)
- Universal access to **cash benefits**
  - National Insurance Scheme benefits (unemployment, sickness, disability, parental leave)
  - Family Allowance and Cash Benefit for Families with Small Children
  - Housing allowance and Social financial assistance (means-tested)
- **Benefits for single mother/father**

# Policy framework (2)

## *Benefits for single mother/father*

- ***Transitional benefit***
  - To cover subsistence expenses
  - Requirement of occupational activity
  - Until the child attains the age of 8, but not for more than 3 years. After a new child birth, a new transitional benefit may be granted until the child is entitled to day care (1 year old)
- Childcare benefit
- Education benefit and moving grant to take up work

# Assessment of the policy measures

Decrease in number of recipients of benefits for single mother/father (1996: 45.000 → 2016: 14.400)

- High labour market participation
- Austerity measures in the benefit scheme
  - Labour or education activity conditions when youngest child > 3 years
  - Reduced maximum benefit period (10 to 3 years)
  - Activity conditions when child > 1 year
- Several single parents have shared custody
- Legal right to day care when the child is 1 year old