



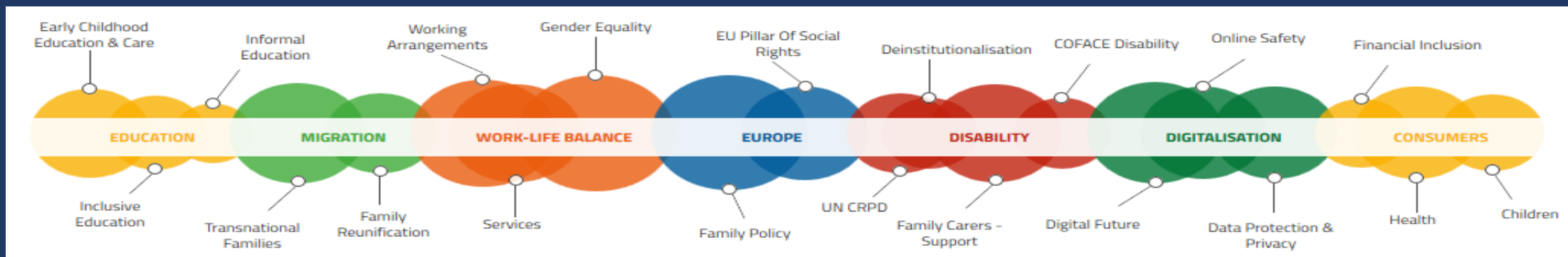
14th FEAD Network Meeting
'Tackling poverty among children with FEAD'

The role of family policies and programmes to address child poverty

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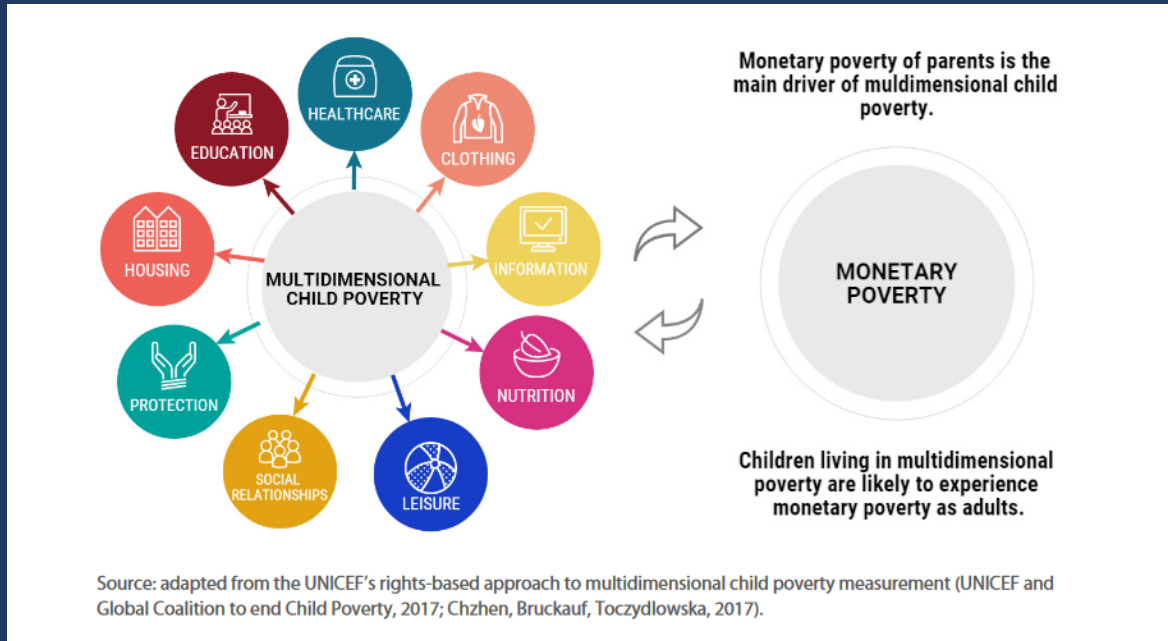


- **PLURALISTIC ORGANIZATION**
- **FOUNDED IN 1958**
- **58 ORGANISATIONS IN 23 MEMBER STATES**
- **VALUES: NON-DISCRIMINATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY, SOLIDARITY, EMPOWERMENT**
- **HOLISTIC – LIFE CYCLE APPROACH**
- **ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTEREST OF ALL TYPES OF FAMILIES**
- **MONITOR EU INITIATIVES, BUILD THE CAPACITY OF COFACE NETWORK**



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

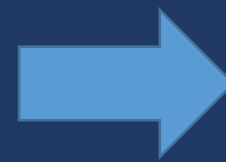


MAIN FACTORS INFLUENCING CHILD POVERTY:

- MONETARY POVERTY
- EDUCATION LEVEL OF PARENTS
- FAMILY COMPOSITION (large families, single parents, disability)
- LOW WORK INTENSITY
- MIGRANT BACKGROUND

Member States can to tackle child poverty through:

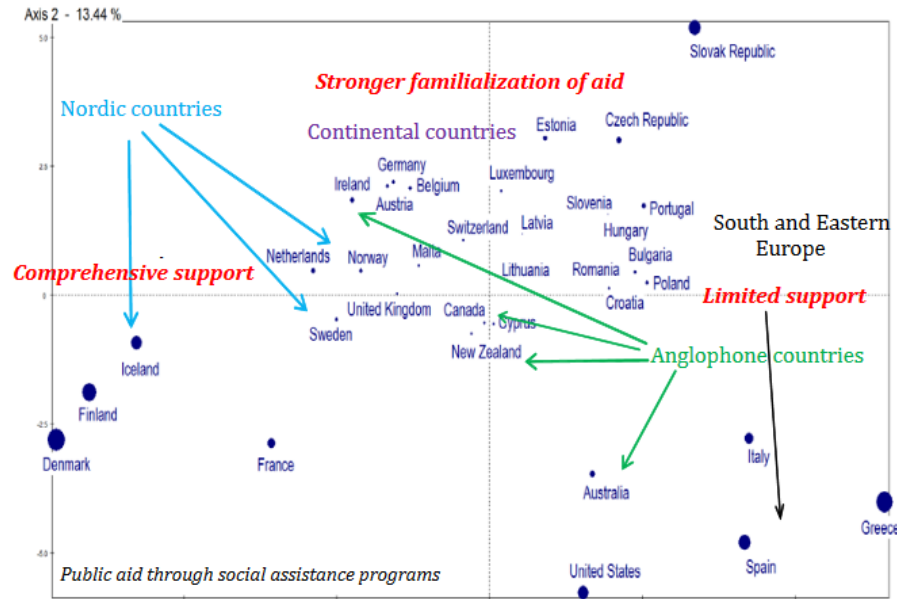
- EMPLOYMENT POLICIES
- PREVENTING IN-WORK POVERTY
- EFFECTIVE INCOME SUPPORT



**SUPPORTING PARENTS IS A
FUNDAMENTAL PREREQUISITE FOR
PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

Family policies at national level PATTERNS (OECD countries)

Figure 1: OECD countries by type of policy supporting young adults



Source: Thévenon 2015a

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

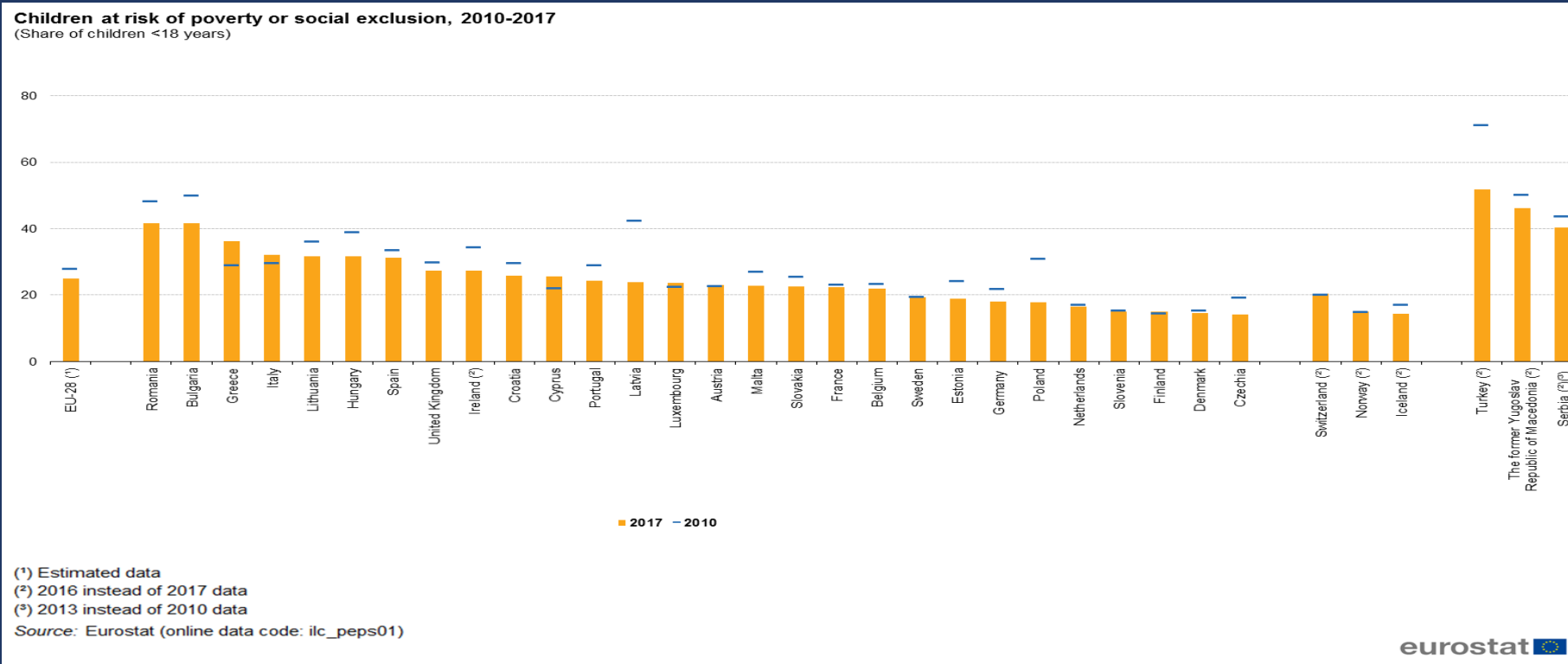
SK, CZ, EE, LUX, SI, PT, HU, BG, PL, RO, HR

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



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

The poverty rate in the EU decreased from 27,5 n 2010 to 26,4 in 2017

Framework

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

Instruments

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?

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**

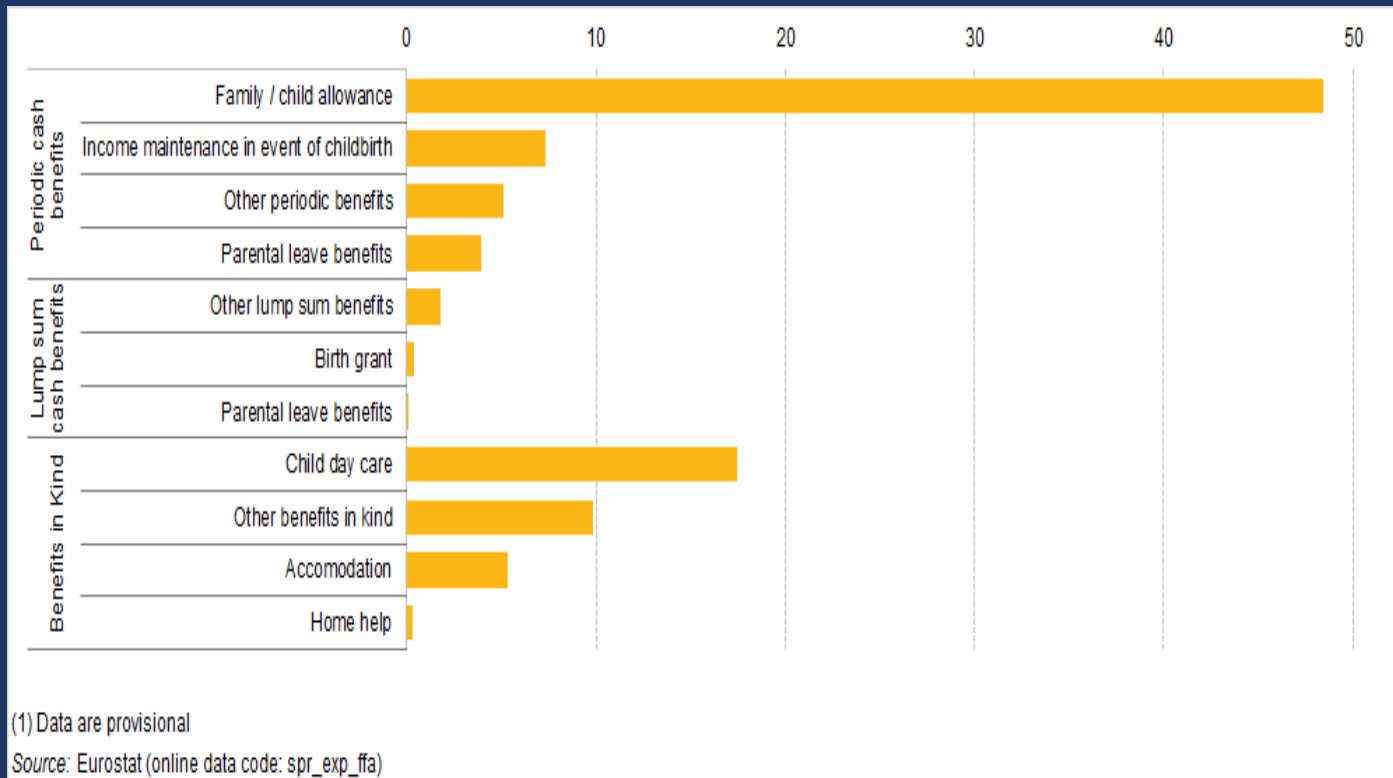
Multi-dimensional approach In other words

Access to resources: Parental employment and family benefits		Access to services		Integrated anti-poverty strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low effective marginal tax rate • Progressive and individualised taxation • Parental leave, paternity leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and adequate benefits • Balance between universal and targeted • Balance between cash and in-kind • Progressive across quintiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECEC (affordable, accessible, inclusive, high quality) • Housing (adequate and affordable) • Health (preventive health, parenting support) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data, targets • Multi-sectoral, multi-agency • Multi-level • Cross-departmental • Single access points

Source: Social Protection Committee. (2014). Social Europe: Many ways, one objective. Annual report of the Social Protection Committee on the social situation in the European Union (2013).

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**

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)

BUT...

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!

MAIN REFERENCE

[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](#)