



European policy cooperation in the field of early childhood education and care (ECEC)

*DG Education and Culture
Meeting of the Informal Expert Group on the
Rights of the Child, October, 2013*

What will I talk about ?



- European policy **context**—holistic approach to children
- **Issues** at European-level for policy cooperation - Communication and Council Conclusions on ECEC
- European policy **tools** in ECEC
- **Cross-sectoral synergies**

Policy framework: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth



Headline targets in the EU 2020 strategy

The share of **early school leavers** should be under 10%

20 million less people should be at risk of **poverty**

At least 40% of the younger generation should have a **tertiary degree**



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Current initiatives at EU level

Europe 2020 Strategy

- European Semester
- Annual Growth Survey
- Country Specific Recommendations
- Cross-sectoral synergies

Peer learning

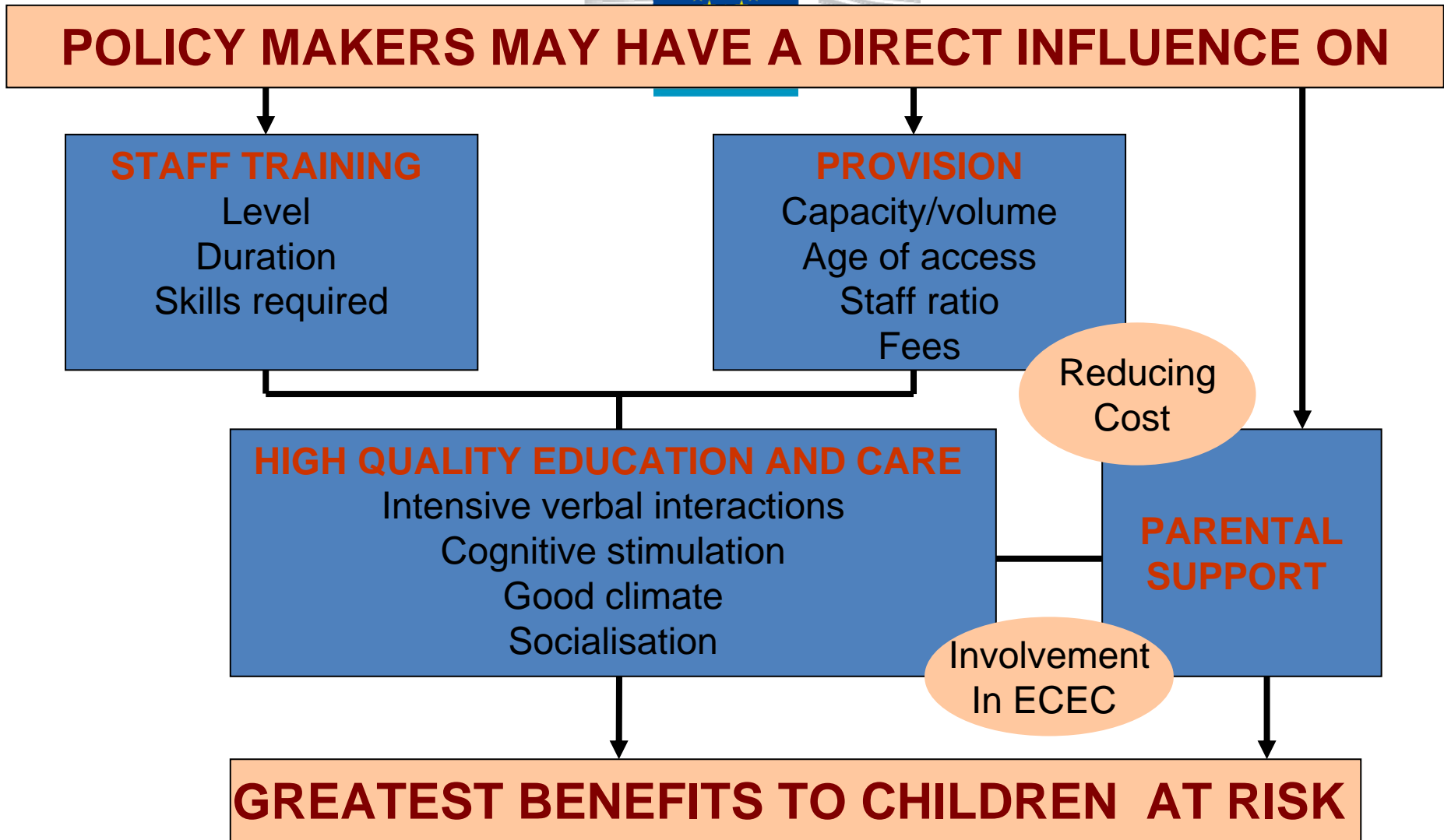
- Thematic Working Group on ECEC (start in Marc 2012 – mandate until 2014)
- Stakeholder Group on ECEC/ESL

Policy debate

- Education Council
- DG Schools

Funding

- Structural Funds
- European education and research programmes
- Erasmus +



Communication and Council Conclusions on ECEC



- Improving **accessibility** and **quality**
- **Holistic** approach to children – from birth to compulsory school age



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Invites Member States

to analyse their current situation as regards ECEC provision with particular attention to their accessibility and quality

to reinforce measures to ensure equitable and generalised access to high-quality ECEC services

to invest in ECEC as a growth enhancing measure

with the support of the Commission, to engage in policy cooperation via the OMC and to make efficient use of existing financial tools

Invites the Commission

to facilitate exchange of experience and good practice

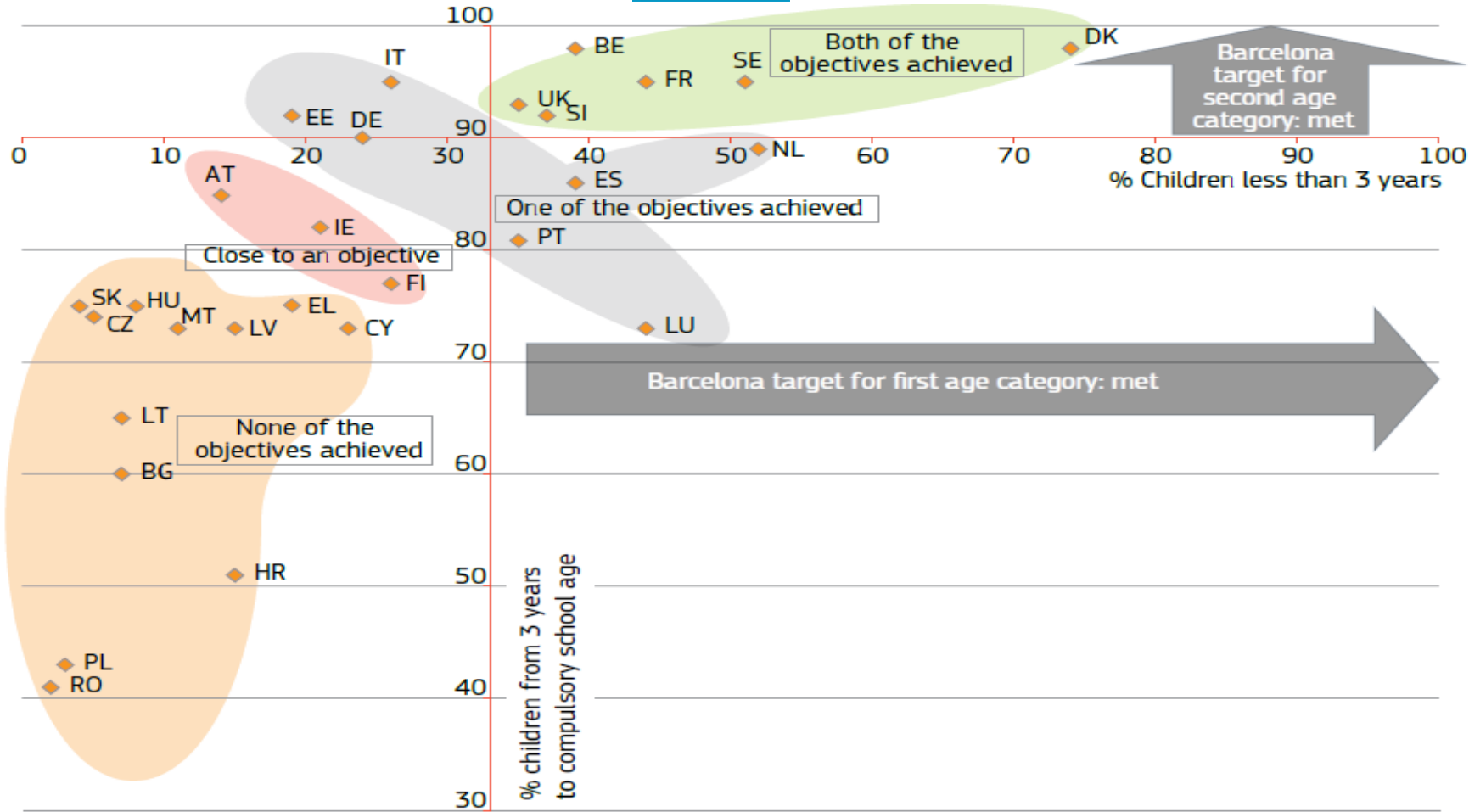
to broaden the evidence-base on ECEC

to monitor and report on progress towards the EU benchmark

Accessibility: Barcelona target



**Formal child care
by age category (2011)**
Children cared for as a percentage of all
children in the same age category



Sources: Eurostat — EU-SILC 2010

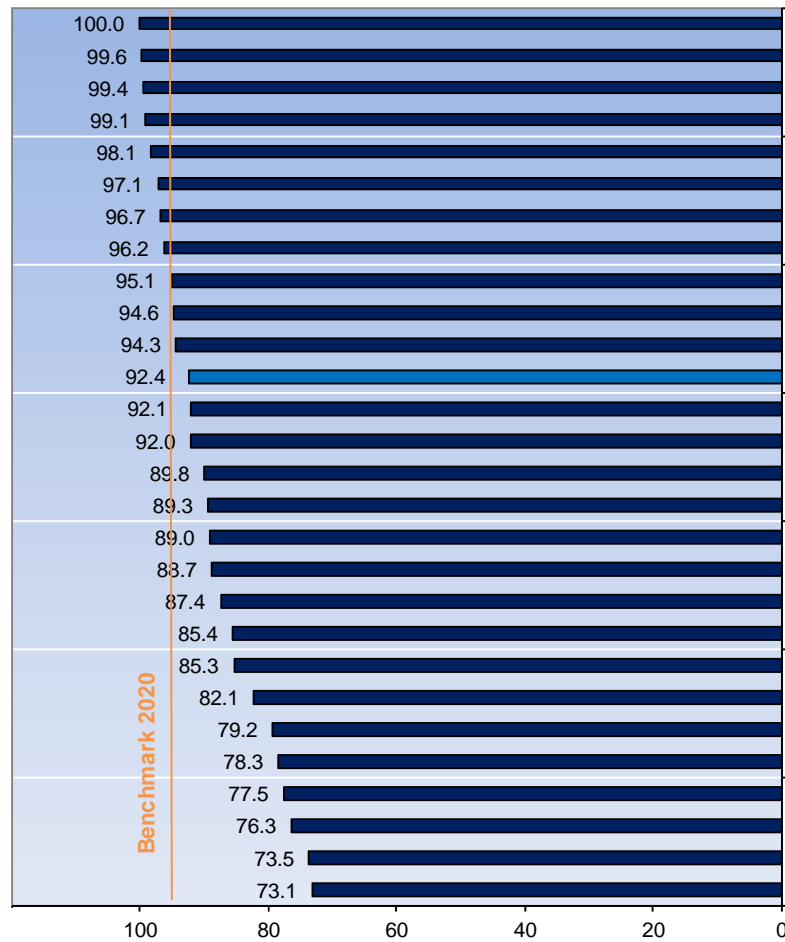
Notes: 'Close to an objective' refers to countries that had around 25 % of coverage for children under 3 (Finland) or around 80 % coverage of children aged 3 to the mandatory school age (Austria, Ireland).

Accessibility: Participation in ECEC— but **quantity** without **quality** is of little merit

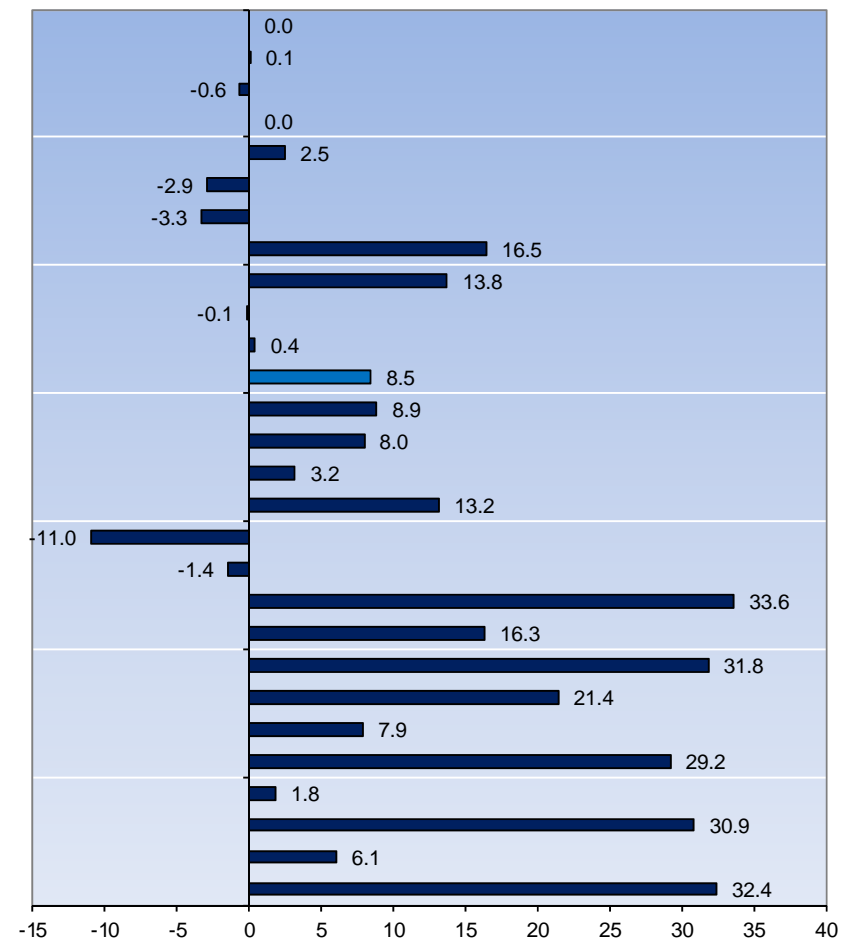


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Participation in early childhood education, 2010 (%)



Evolution 2010-2010 (% relative change)



Age 4 to start of compulsory schooling

Quality/1: Age-appropriate content / curriculum







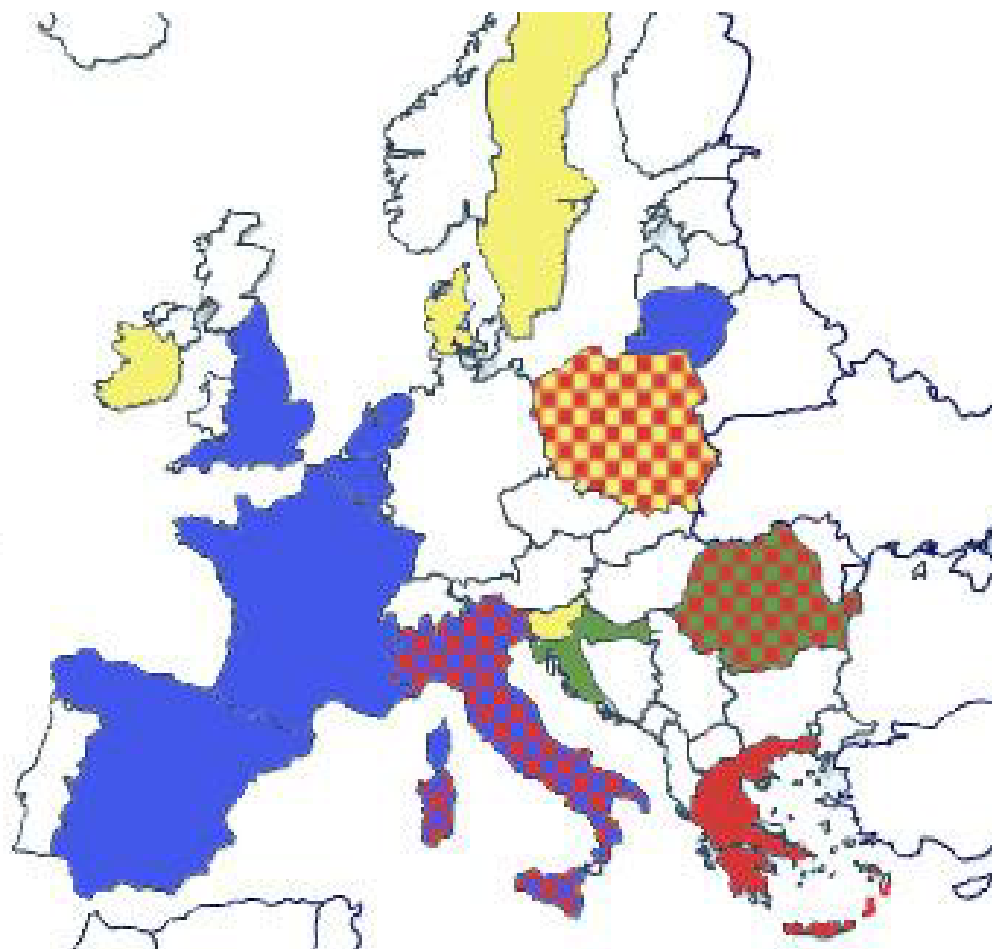
- Integrating care and education (independent of system type)
- Addressing children's needs in a holistic way (cognitive, social, emotional, physical)
- Skills beget skills – non-cognitive are crucial
- Play is learning

Quality/2: Staff



Core practitioners

-  A. Training profiles deduced from professional profiles
-  B. Only professional profiles and no training profiles
-  C. Only training profiles and no professional profiles
-  D. No professional profiles and no training profiles



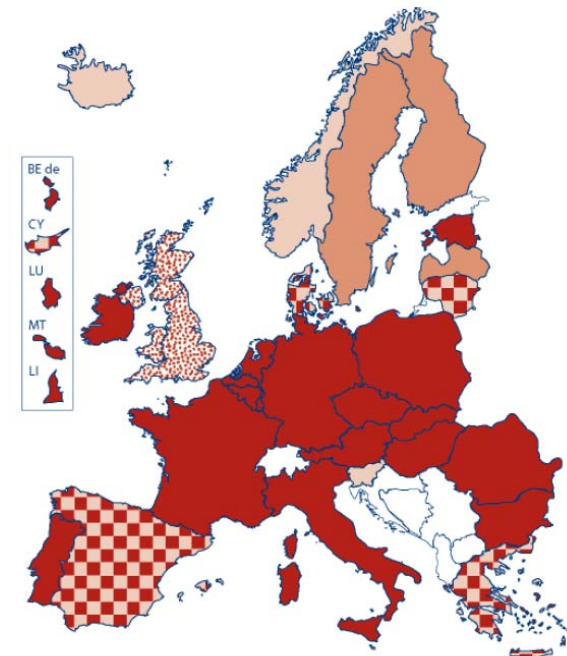
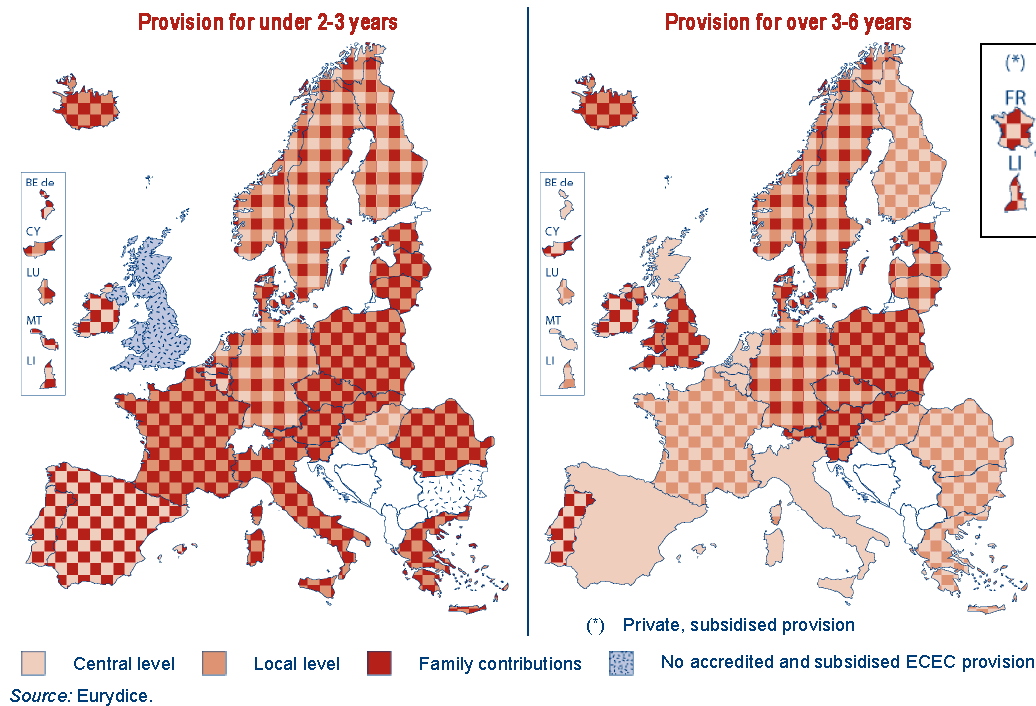
Source: CORE study 2011

Quality/3: Governance

Finance of public sector and publicly subsidised private ECEC settings (2006/07)



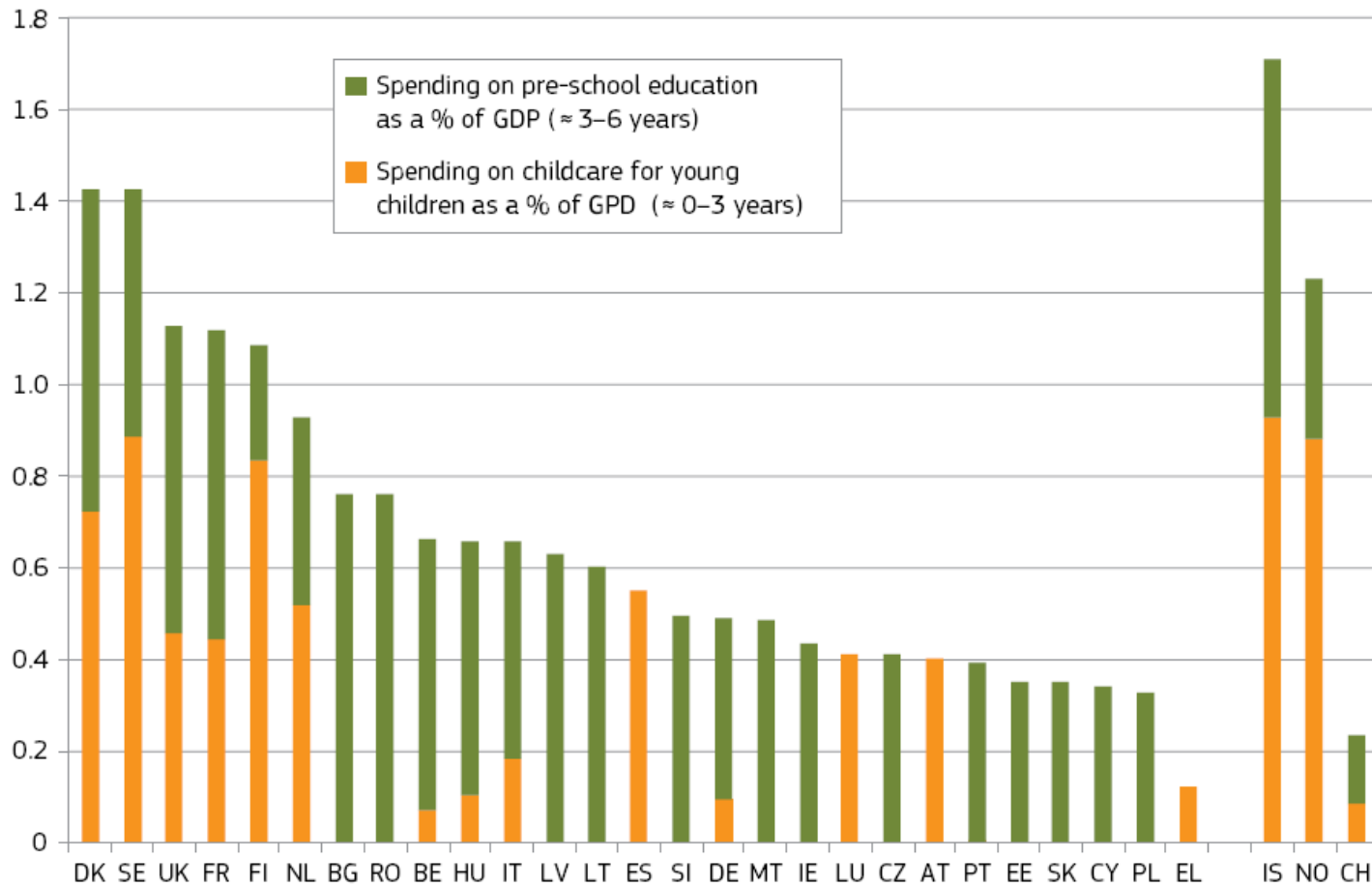
Main models of (accredited and subsidised) ECEC provision according to the age of children 2006/7



- Unitary settings only up to primary level
- Unitary settings and pre-primary classes
- Separate settings for youngest children (0 to 2-3 years) and those over 2-3 years with or without pre-primary classes
- Largely (or exclusively) pre-primary classes (ISCED 0) mainly or solely for 3-6 years

Quality/4:Funding

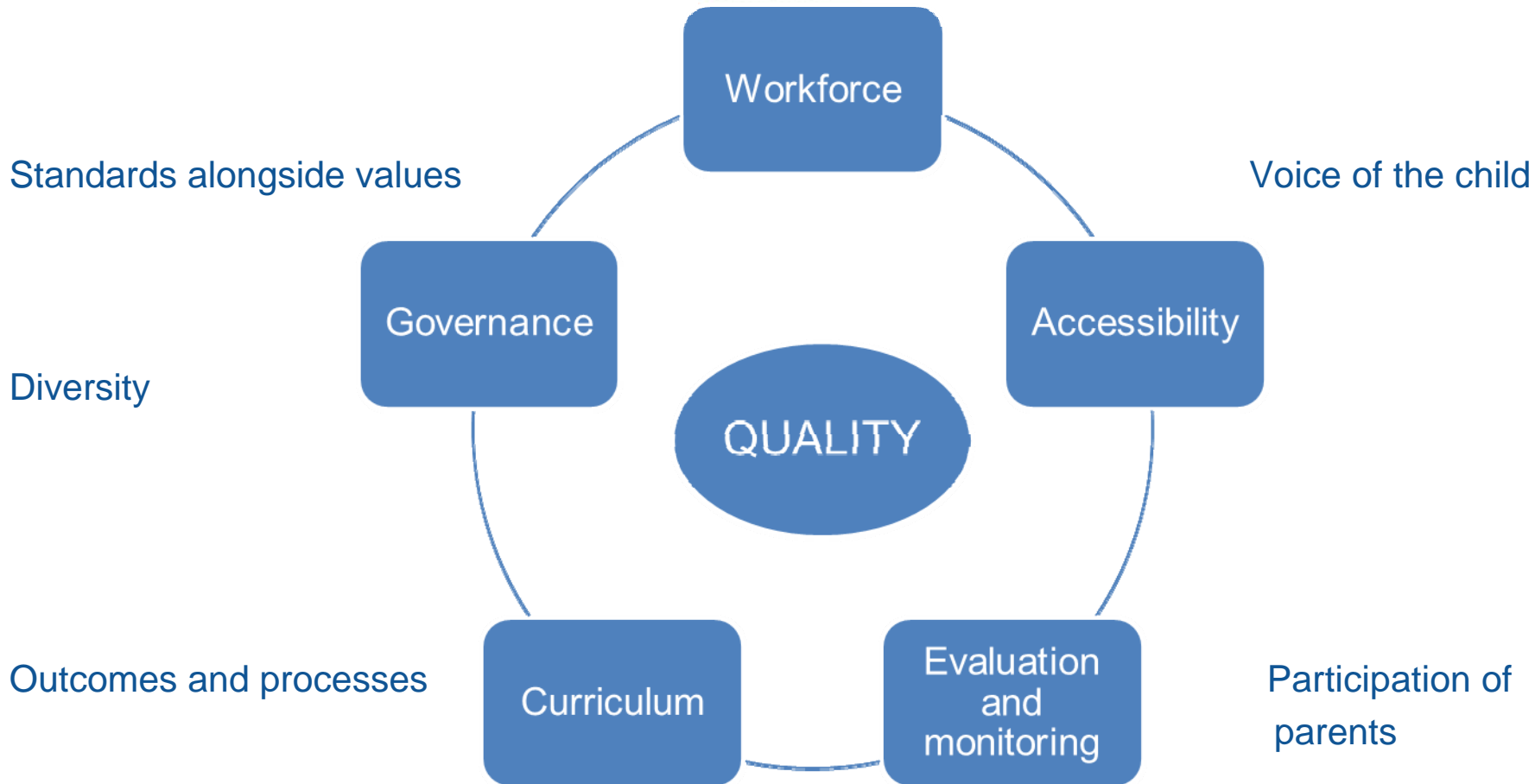
Public spending on early childhood education and care as a % of GDP 2009



Source: OECD Family database, Indicator PF3.1 (2009).



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Thank you for your attention.

*Education and
training*