

Early Childhood Education and Care: How To Avoid a 'Motherhood Penalty'?

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The EU Care Strategy (September 2022)

Under the slogan "it's time to care", the European Commission presented two proposals for a Council Recommendation.

- **Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC):** from 33% to 50% of children under 3 years old attending ECEC and from 90% to 96% of children between 3 years old and the age of starting compulsory primary education by 2023.
- **Long-term care (LTC):** access to quality and affordable long-term care, increasing and diversifying the supply of professional long-term care, supporting informal care and ensuring adequate financing.

The current momentum on care should be used to elevate the fundamental values underlying the feminist understanding of *care* to the same level as more widely recognised fundamental values such as *justice*, arguing that justice is incomplete without care and vice versa.

The EU-SILC data

For our analysis we have used the **European statistics on income, social inclusion and living conditions** thanks to an agreement with EUROSTAT.

EU-SILC cover objective and subjective aspects in monetary and non-monetary terms for households and individuals. The following aspects are covered:

- income
- poverty
- social exclusion
- housing
- labour
- education
- health



2016 Ad-hoc module on Access to Services

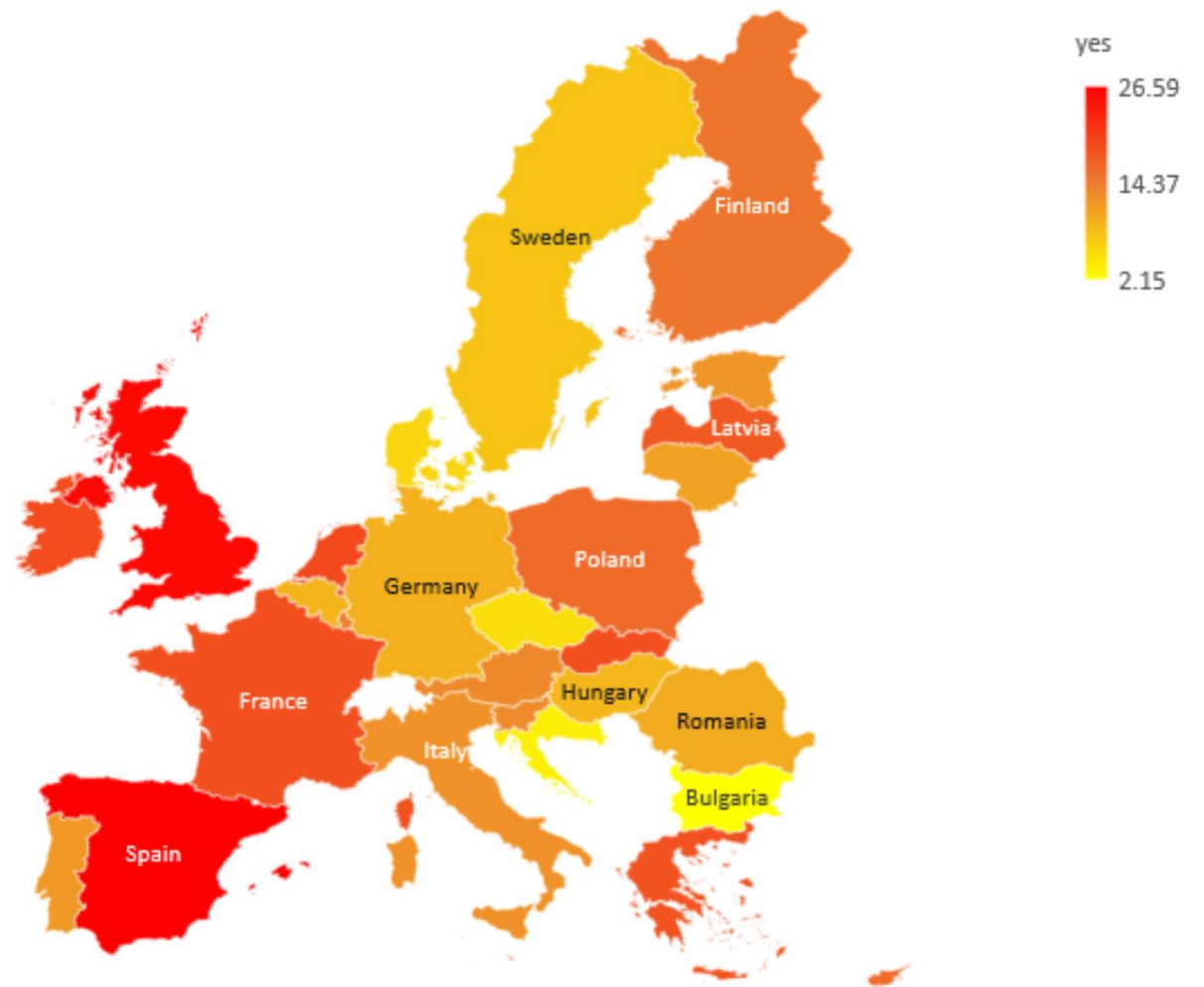
- Ad-hoc modules are developed each year in order to complement the variables permanently collected in EU-SILC with supplementary variables highlighting unexplored aspects of social inclusion
- The 2016 ad-hoc module include variables on access to services (access to health care, education, professional home care)
- The focus of this analysis is on childcare services:
 1. Formal childcare refers to childcare at center-based services and childcare at day-care center. Childcare at day-care center includes all kind of care organized/controlled by a structure (public, private). This means that the parents and the carer are not the only persons involved in the care, that there are no direct arrangements between the carer and the parents in the sense that there is an organized structure between them (which is often the carer's employers)
 2. Costs of formal childcare services should include tuition fees, costs of canteen and other costs that are expected for children participating in formal childcare services

Unmet needs for
formal childcare
services %

only among
persons aged 25-
54, that live with
at least one
<7 y.o. child

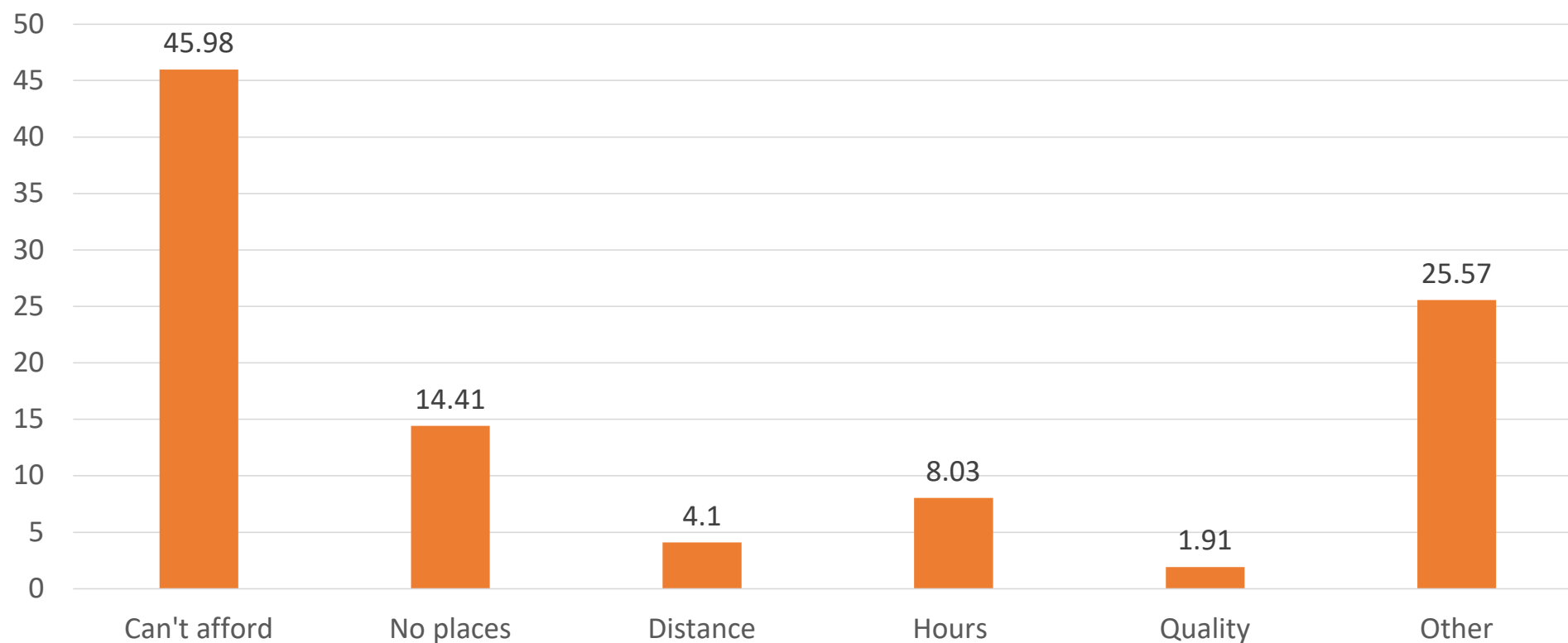


"Minerva" - Laboratorio su diversità e disuguaglianze di genere



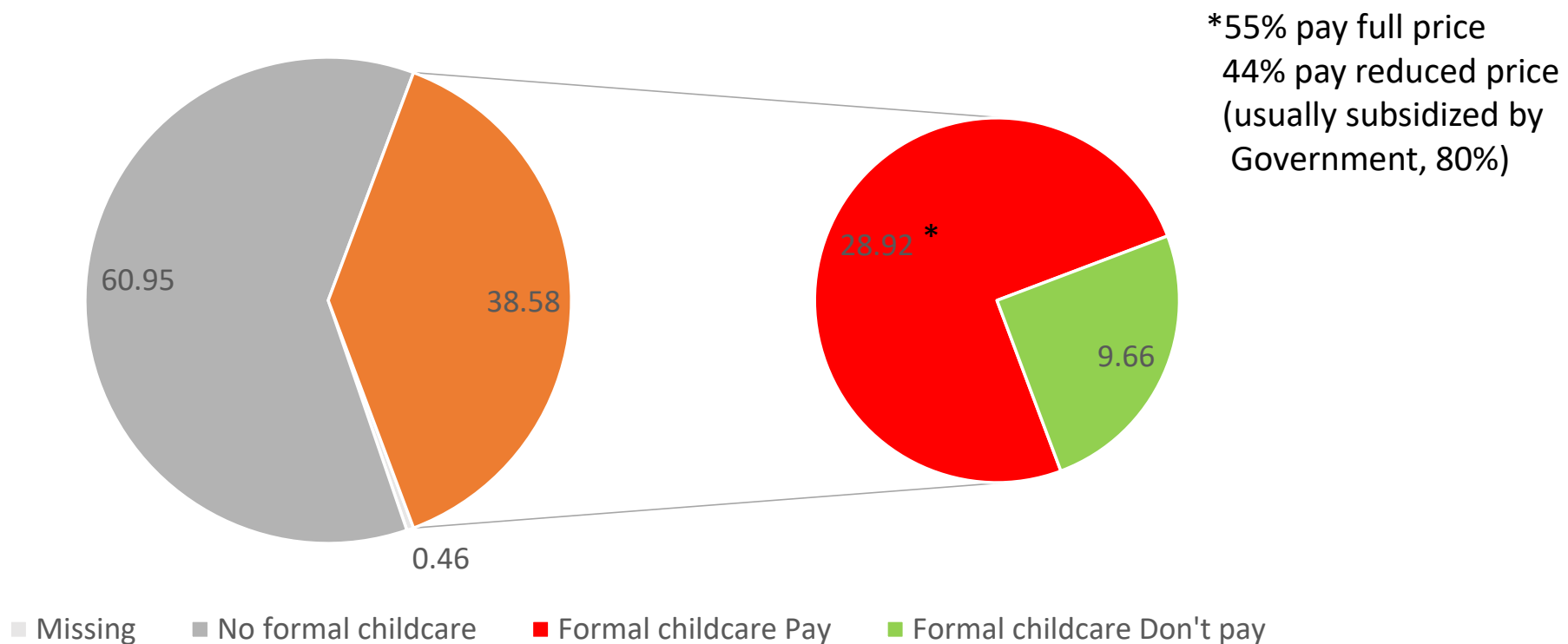
Authors' calculations based on EU-SILC ad-hoc module 2016

Main reason for not making (more) use of formal childcare services %
only among persons aged 25-54, that live with at least one <7 y.o. child



Authors' calculations based on EU-SILC ad-hoc module 2016

Payment for the cost of formal childcare services % children <7 years old

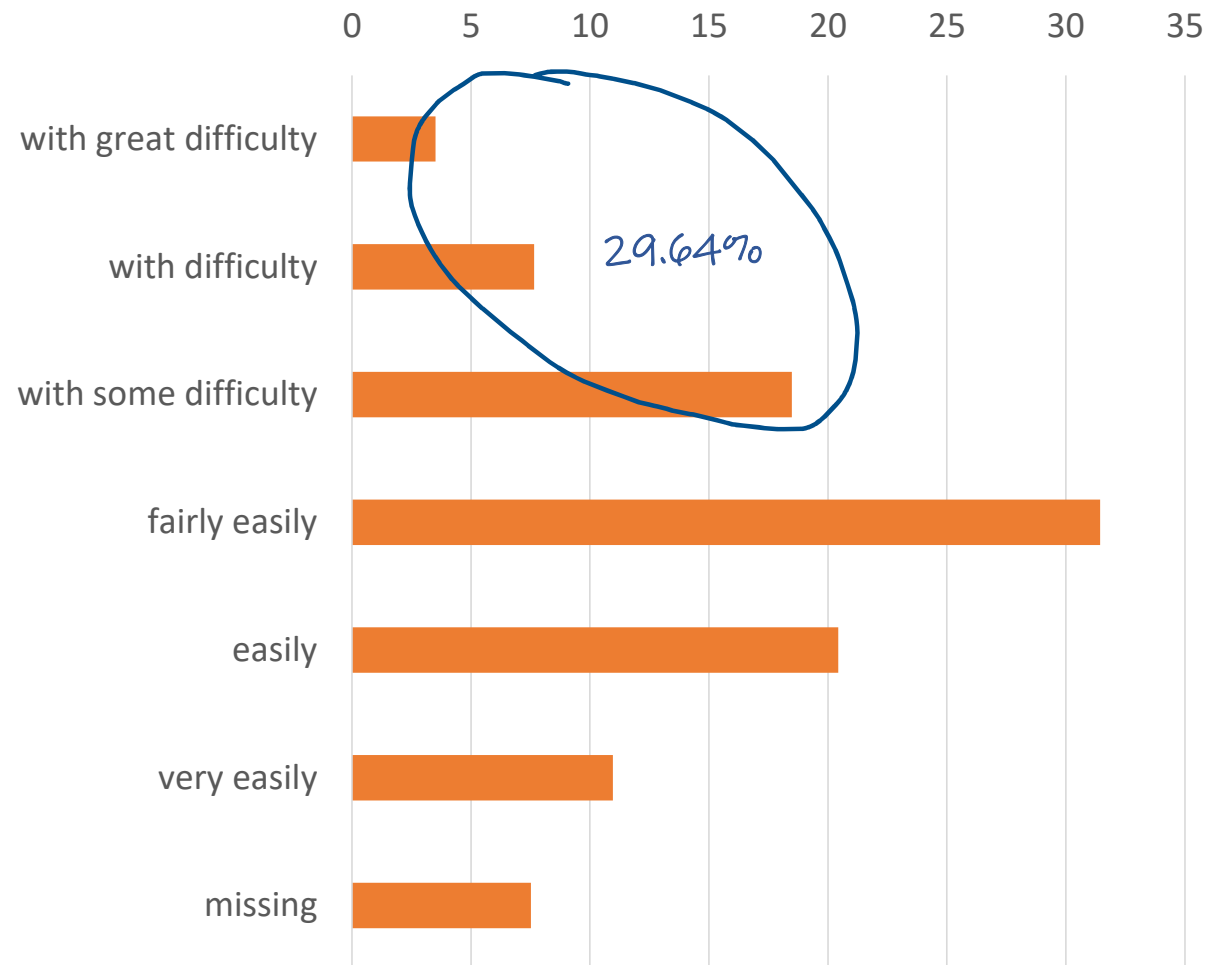


Payment for the cost of formal childcare services % children <7 years old

		0-3	4-6
	Pay	27.46	30.45
Formal childcare	Don't pay	7.43	12
No formal childcare		64.78	56.95
Missing		0.33	0.6

Affordability of childcare services %

only among persons
aged 25-54, that live
with at least one
<7 y.o. child
and pay for formal
childcare



Authors' calculations based on EU-SILC ad-hoc module 2016

Self-defines in the labour market % only among persons aged 25-54, that live with at least one <7 y.o. child



The model

- For our analysis we used a probit model for estimating the probability of being employed (vs. not)
- We selected observations 25 to 54 years old (prime age), that live in a household with at least one child between and 6 years old
- We run the model for everybody, for women only, for men only



	<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cum.</i>
Self-reported Employment Status			
Not employed	12,196,131	25.37	25.37
Employed	35,883,854	74.63	100
Sex			
Man	22,913,270	47.66	47.66
Woman	25,166,715	52.34	100
Migrant status			
Non-migrant	40,742,337	84.74	84.74
Migrant	7,337,648	15.26	100
Highest level of education			
primary or lower	1,600,583	3.33	3.33
some secondary	23,995,240	49.91	53.24
some tertiary and higher	22,484,162	46.76	100
Marital status			
single	2,608,042	5.52	5.52
married	33,789,860	71.51	77.03
separated/divorced	928,947	1.97	78.99
widowed	114,345	0.24	79.23
in couple	9,812,174	20.77	100
Number of children (0-12)			
1	22,279,239	46.34	46.34
2	19,822,627	41.23	87.57
3+	5,978,119	12.43	100
Monetary household deprivation			
No	29,668,153	61.86	61.86
Yes	18,288,386	38.14	100.00

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Obs</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Dev.</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>
Age	48,079,985	36.38	6.15	25	54
Total hh income (excl. own income)	48,079,985	31468.43	31933.27	-240994	1,681,356
National minimum wage PPS	48,079,985	862.91	471.58	0	1502.85
Children/Family allowances	48,079,985	3170.01	4275.31	-65	99607.24
Daycare hours	48,079,985	18.40	16.48	0	99



[illegible]

Results

	all	W	M
national minimum wage (PPS)	0.0000545** (0.0000246)	0.0000924** (0.0000446)	0.0000126 (0.0000107)
family/children related allowances	-0.00000565*** (0.00000184)	-0.0000103*** (0.00000316)	-0.0000016 (0.00000144)
weekly hours of preschool	0.00315*** (0.000658)	0.00552*** (0.00101)	0.000631** (0.000268)



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Thank you!

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