



Database on Intergenerational Policy Indicators*

Methodological Report

by
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This is version 1 of the methodological report, consolidated at December 2009. It documents the database on intergenerational policies which is a product of the Multilinks project funded by the EU. For updates please look at www.multilinks-project.eu.



* At the moment access to the database is limited to group members of the MULTILINKS project (www.multilinks-project.eu). An updated version of the database will be publicly available presumably in 2011.

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Collecting data on social policies of a wide range of countries remains a difficult task even though European integration has fostered the efforts to make information on policies and their outcome more transparent and more comparable. For many policy issues, such as for instance long-term care, comparative data collection and research is still at the beginning. Existing comparative data sources often do not encompass all countries in our study, which includes all EU 27 member states as well as Georgia and Russia. Missing are particularly data for the countries which joined the EU from 2003 onwards. Also national statistics are not always complete and when they are available, language problems constitute a tremendous barrier for accessing them. We are, therefore, very grateful to national experts who agreed to help us in filling data gaps as well as in better interpreting the available data and in finding our way across a wealth of information which is not always consistent across data sources. We know very well that answering to our questions was time consuming and often required the willingness to go beyond one's own specific expertise, even recruiting other informants.

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The information of the national experts has always been taken into account. In citing the source of a given information, however, we mention the expert only in case he/she is the main or only source of information.

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1. A database on intergenerational policies

The database on intergenerational policies provides a set of indicators which describes social policies and legal frameworks in the 27 European Union member states as well as in Georgia and Russia around the year 2004. This year has been chosen as a reference point since around that time the first wave of the Gender and generation survey was launched in the countries which first took part to it. The data base will be updated in a four year interval.

The database is part of the MULTILINKS project, which is funded by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme. The objective of the MULTILINKS project is to investigate how changing social contexts affect social integration, well-being and intergenerational solidarity across different European nations. Public policies are one dimension of the social contexts intergenerational relations are embedded in. A prime part of MULTILINKS is therefore to describe the various approaches in Europe on how the state defines, regulates, supports or expects responsibilities between generations.

The conceptual framework for the collection and interpretation of indicators of the institutional framework of intergenerational obligations has been outlined in the first report (Saraceno and Keck 2009). Developing Korpi's (2000), Leitner's (2003) and Saraceno's (2000; 2004) insights, three basic types of public policies are distinguished, based on the way the responsibilities for intergenerational support are allocated between the state and the family (and through the latter also to the market).

1) *Familialism by default*, or unsupported familialism, in so far there are no publicly provided alternatives to family care and financial support. It can be implicit, but also explicit, as in the case of financial obligations within the generational chain and kinship networks prescribed by law.

2) *Supported familialism*, in so far policies, usually through financial transfers (including taxation and paid leaves), support families in keeping up their financial and caring responsibilities towards the younger and older generations.

3) *De-familisation*, in so far individualization of social rights (e.g. with regard to minimum income provision, or unemployment benefits for the young, or entitlement to higher education, or to receiving care) reduces family responsibilities and dependencies.

The structure of the database has been developed at the background of this conceptual framework. It first distinguishes upward and downward patterns of support and obligations, as well as between financial and care obligations. Consequently, the database includes information on four domains:

- 1) Responsibilities to care for children
- 2) Responsibilities to provide financial support for children
- 3) Responsibilities to care for frail older people
- 4) Responsibilities to provide financial support for older people

Within each domain, we selected the policies or legal regulations which, according to our theoretical framework, are most relevant: in the case of responsibilities towards children, maternity and parental leaves, public child care provision and financial support for families with children and they concern pension policies which secure people in retirement age from financial hardship and long-term care policies. We also included the presence of legal obligations to support either adult children or parents in case of need. Finally a set of indicators is outlined in order to describe who is eligible for public support and to provide quantitative indicators of the output of the different policies.

Collecting comparative indicators is a challenging task: concepts and definitions sometimes vary from country to country; indicators do not always refer to the same unit of measurement or point in time; often there are substantial regional variations within countries, which are blurred by reporting national averages; different data sources often offer different, sometime even contradicting figures. This methodological report addresses all these issues and explains and documents the solutions adopted in each case.

The next section presents the framework of the database and offers a brief instruction on how to use the database. Chapter 3 deals with methodological problems both at the country level but in particular with regard to cross country comparisons. The fourth and final section comprises the detailed documentation of the indicators.

2 Framework of the database

In this section we outline what is our focus of measurement and how we identify policy areas and connect them to different modes of operation of social policies. This conceptual framework has been used as a guideline to structure the database.

2.1 Measuring what?

For a long time comparative welfare state research was to a large extent empirically based on expenditure data. Using expenditure data for the analysis of welfare state expansion, retrenchment and more generally mode (or regime), however, is only partially useful, since there is not a seamless overlapping between levels of expenditure and patterns of provision. This issue has been addressed methodologically as the ‘dependent variable problem’ (Clasen and Siegel 2007). Furthermore, at the level of “patterns of provision” two distinct issues should be distinguished: one issue concerns cross country or cross time differences in entitled groups; the other concerns the mode of operation of social policy measures in a given field and with regard to a given objective. Even the crucial distinction between benefits in kind and benefits in cash, appears in some case too simplistic from our theoretical perspective and research question, We need to know whether a policy programme relieves family members from a quota of their obligations or whether it supports them (in a more or less gendered way) in fulfilling their obligations.

For these reasons we did not start from expenditure data. We rather looked on the one hand at modes of provision, on the other hand at criteria for entitlement, levels of coverage, benefit level. These are all output measures. For the moment being, we did not address the issue of whether they are coherent with the explicit, or official, policy goals nor with the prevalent attitudes or preferences in the given country. For the distinction between these different levels in policy analysis see Kaufmann (2002). Nor did we address the outcomes issue.

Clear and robust outcome measures are hardly available, even though strong in demand (see: Atkinson 2005). What is good education or good care is often expressed at an abstract level, like the number of staff dealing with the target group or what is the required level of qualification for the staff (e.g. OECD 2005a; OECD 2005b). We therefore decided only to consider coverage rates for the database but not to go any further in documenting the life circumstances of social groups, which are influenced but not determined by social policies. Our intent is to avoid suggestive connections between policies and living conditions which cannot be addressed analytically in such a database with single, unrelated indicators.

After having defined at what level policy measures are addressed, the second step is to find adequate and robust indicators which allow distinguishing the three modes of operation we defined conceptually - defamilialisation, supported familialism and familialism by default. By definition, familialism by default refers to the absence of policy support and therefore is not defined as a positive indicator; it is rather residual – everything which is left to the responsibility of the individual or family. The exceptions are legal obligations to support. Here the state defines the duties of kin members and delineate the range and duration of intergenerational responsibilities within families. Obligations to support are in general regulated downwards towards children and grandchildren and upwards to parents and grandparents and in some countries even broaden to second degree relatives. The more comprehensive these obligations are, the more responsibilities are assigned to the family by law and the higher is the degree of unsupported familialism.

Defamilialisation refers in the first instance to policies which partially relieve the family of their duties to provide hands-on care or financial support. The clearest expression of such policies in the area of care responsibilities is the publicly funded provision of non family care through the offer of collective services. Also some form of cash for care may be ascribed to this type of “defamilialising” policies, when cash benefits may be used only to pay for formally employed providers. Their status is instead more uncertain and nearer to supported familialism when their use is free, which means that they are often used to integrate the family budget. The Janus-faced character of such payments makes it difficult to ascribe *a priori* financial allowances targeted to care needs either to defamilialisation or to supported familialism. To distinguish such measures we use a heuristic evaluation. If cash for care allowances are bounded to service use, they are a measure of defamilialisation because payments are intended and sufficient to use social services. If the allowances are not bounded to service use, we interpret them as a measure of supported familialism. Of course, they may be used also to buy services in the formal and informal market. But we consider defamilialisation via market as the possible outcome of both unsupported and supported familialism and keep it distinct from de-familialisation via direct or subsidized provision of services.

In general cash benefits present a big challenge for our conceptualization. In the first place, financial transfers (direct benefits, as well as tax credits or tax allowances) provided to individuals or families ease the dependency on market income that is a means of decommodification. Second, when they are directed to those who are (institutionally defined) out of the labour force – the young and the old – financial transfers also relieve more or less

partially other family members from their obligation to support. The modes of operation however are different in the case of children than in the case of retired people. Public financial support for families with children is mainly aimed to supplement parents' income. Maternity and parental benefits are linked to a leave and provide incentives for parents (mainly mothers but in some country also fathers) to stay at home and care for their infant children. The same applies to child caring allowances which exist in a few countries. Both measures clearly belong to the supported familialism approach. Other monetary allowances for families with children, such as child benefits or child-related tax allowances, are less clear to assign because they might be seen either as a form of decommodification of parents or a decommodification of children. The former, because in principle they allow parents (de facto mothers) to reduce their labour market participation in order to care for their children without reducing too much their level of living: In this perspective they might be interpreted as supported familialism. The latter because they partly relieve parents of their obligation to support their children. Thus they may be interpreted as a form of de-familisation. In the end we opted for interpreting them as supported familialism mainly because we interpret child related benefits as a means to support parents in performing their dual role of carers and providers, rather than substituting them more or less partially. Benefits are added to parental income, not benefitted from outside it. And it is parents, not children, who receive them (differently from the rare instances of child endowment).

For the elderly the situation is different. Financial benefits in the form of pension benefits are intended to provide an autonomous and sufficient income in old age. In particular, although pensions are normally linked to employment and contributory history, in all EU member states there are measures for minimum income provision for the old either in the public pension scheme or as social assistance. Even when they are means-tested, and when there is a legal obligation for children to provide for parents in case of need, in no instance in considering entitlement children's income and children's obligations are taken into account. From this perspective, we interpret minimum pension provisions as a measure of defamilialisation in so far they delineate a public responsibility for the financial autonomy of the old irrespective of their children's obligations.

Table 1 summarizes the different policies areas we considered and how they are assigned to the three modes of operation: defamilialisation and supported familialism and unsupported familialism. The next section addresses the problems in measuring and comparing indicators.

Table 1: How do different policies operate?

	Responsibilities for children	Responsibilities for the elderly
Defamilialisation	Child care provision Education	Pensions and minimum income provision for older people Publicly funded care provision for older people
Supported familialism	Maternity and parental leave child-related benefits	Cash for care payments with no regulation of their use
Unsupported familialism	Obligations to support adult children/grandchildren	Obligations to support parents in case of need

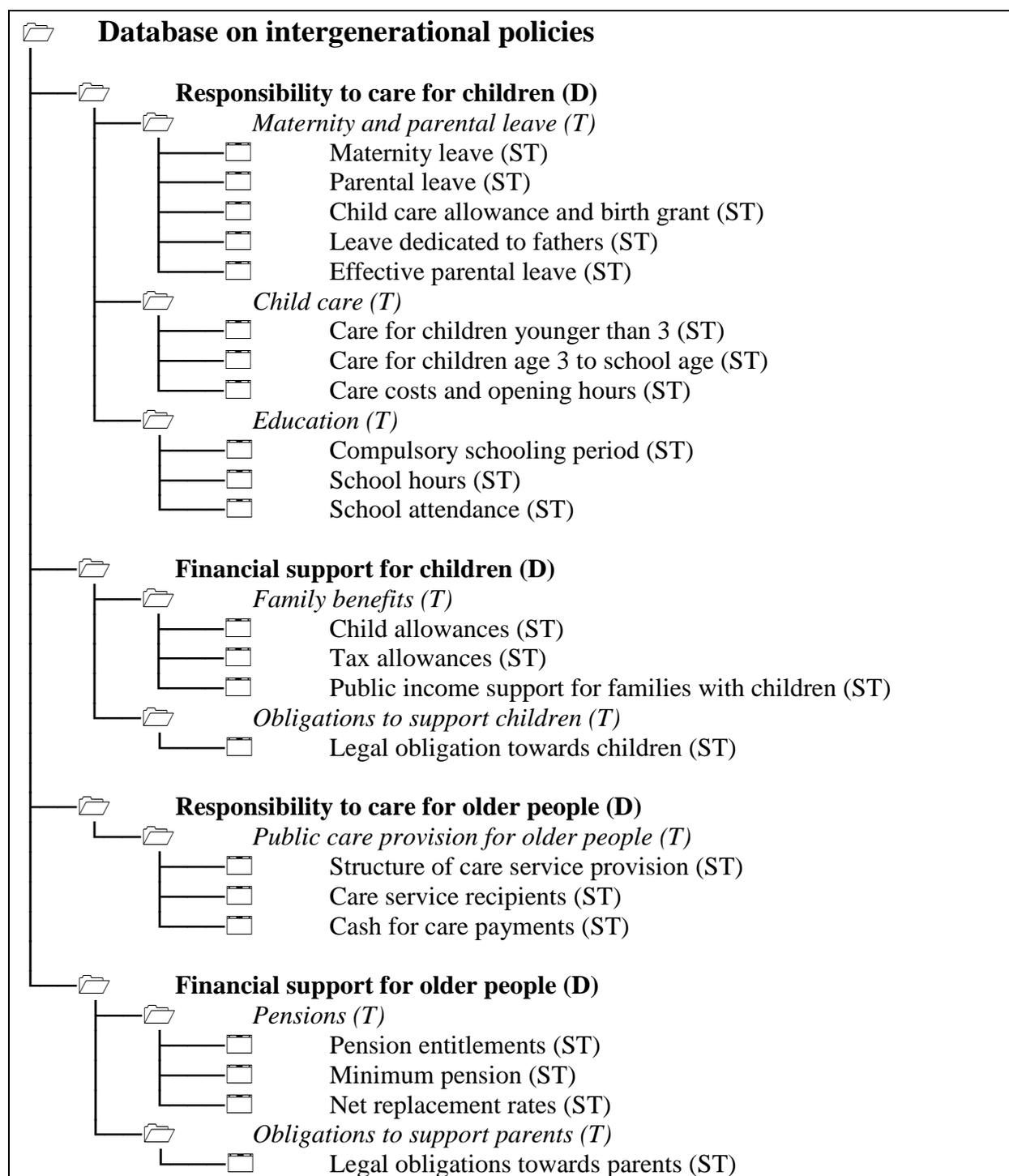
2.2 Structure of the database

One objective of the database was to develop a user-friendly and conceptual based access to the data. We identified three elements to promote this objective. First, there should be a clear structure to navigate between different forms of family-state responsibilities and different policy areas. The database is therefore structured in a hierarchical order with four levels: domains, themes, subthemes, and indicators (figure 1). The domains describe the specific perspective we apply and differentiate, on the one side, between policies towards families with children and policies towards elderly people and, on the other side, between financial support and care support. Within each domain we identify the key policy areas (themes) which define and regulate care and financial responsibilities towards children and the elderly. These policy areas are subdivided into specific subthemes which bundle the defined set of indicators. Subthemes are introduced to apportion the large number of indicators into smaller integrally closed sections. They are classified either according to specific policy measures, like maternity/parental leave regulations, or separate distinct aspects or measures of policy outputs.

The second element concerns the presentation of the indicators. The user navigates through the hierarchical structure, and has the opportunity to choose a specific subtheme. In each subtheme a set of indicators is provided, which offer comprehensive information about a policy measure, or about policy output. We decided to group indicators for two reasons. On the one hand, some of the indicators could not stand alone or provide incomplete information.

For example, the eligibility condition for maternity leave concern both employment or residential status as well as previous work or social security contribution periods. These are separated in two indicators. To obtain a comprehensive picture the user has to look at both indicators which therefore are presented always together. On the other hand, we group indicators if they represent different model cases, in order to document variation. Each single indicator could stand alone; but for the understanding how policies work the variation in output should be considered. An example is the net replacement rate for public pensions. We provide the information for the so called standard pensioner as well as for deviating model cases with lower and higher incomes and one case with an interrupted employment career.

Figure 1: Structure of the database (version 1.0)



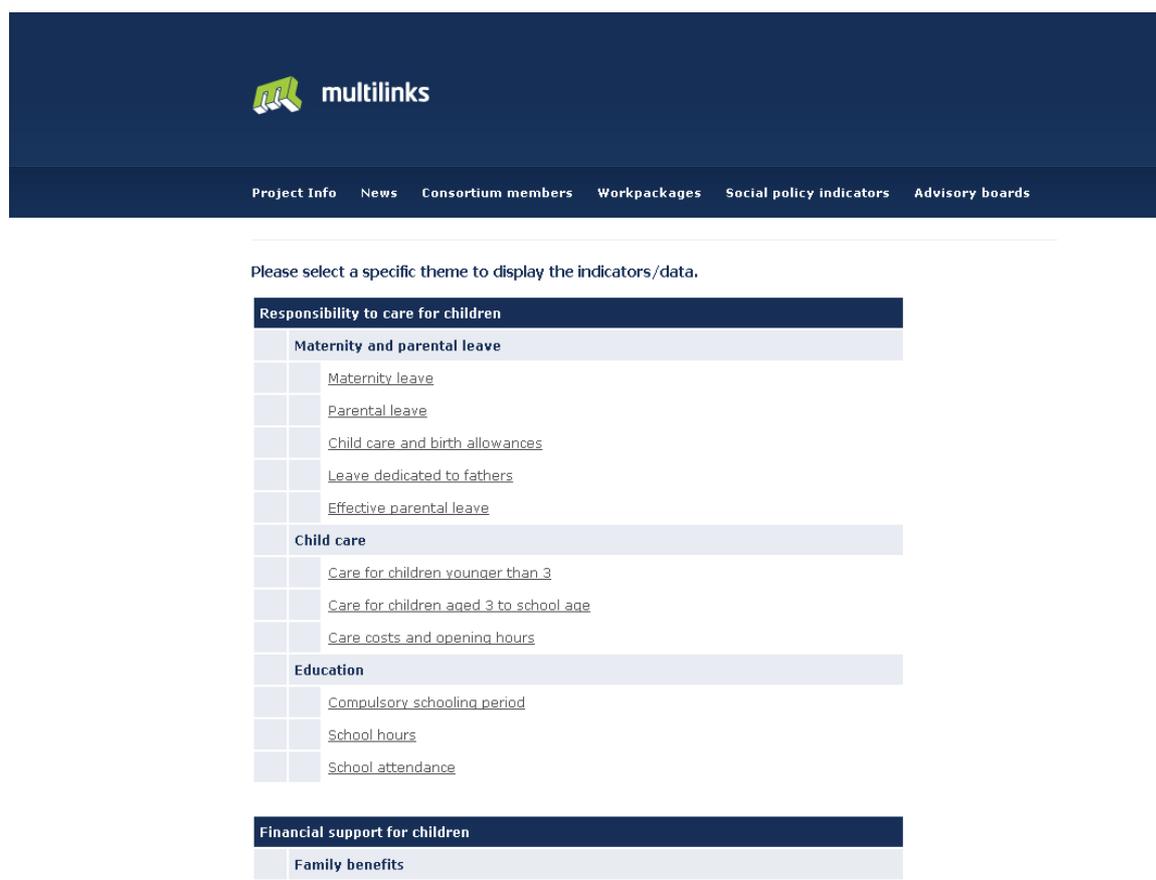
Note: D=domain, T=theme, ST=subtheme

The third element for a user friendly, but also transparent, database is a detailed documentation. Here we introduce two forms of commentary. First general comments about the indicator which depend not on the specific situation of a country are presented with the indicator itself in the head of the table. In addition there are often a variety of country specific comments which would take too much space to be integrated in the data table. Therefore we provide a detailed documentation with country specificities in this methodological report (see section 4). The user should use the report as a necessary compendium to have insights in what way cross country comparisons are restricted.

2.1 How to use the database?¹

The first step is to select a specific subtheme. The web-page offers the outline of all domains, themes and subthemes (see figure 2). Domains and themes are given for orientation but the user may select only a subtheme which includes a set of indicators by clicking at the respective hyperlink.

Figure 2: Selecting a subtheme



The screenshot shows the MULTILINKS website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the MULTILINKS logo and a navigation menu with the following items: Project Info, News, Consortium members, Workpackages, Social policy indicators, and Advisory boards. Below the header, a white box contains the text: "Please select a specific theme to display the indicators/data." Below this text, there are several subthemes listed in a table-like structure, each with a dark blue header and a light blue body containing hyperlinks to specific indicators.

Responsibility to care for children	
Maternity and parental leave	
	Maternity leave
	Parental leave
	Child care and birth allowances
	Leave dedicated to fathers
	Effective parental leave
Child care	
	Care for children younger than 3
	Care for children aged 3 to school age
	Care costs and opening hours
Education	
	Compulsory schooling period
	School hours
	School attendance
Financial support for children	
	Family benefits

¹ At the moment access to the database is limited to group members via login through the “social policy indicators” page at the MULTILINKS webpage (www.multilinks-project.eu). An updated version of the database will be publicly available presumably in 2011.

After having selected a subtheme, the respective indicators will be presented in a table.

Figure 3: Data table: Public income support for children

Project Info News Consortium members Workpackages Social policy indicators Advisory boards			
Back to topics			
Domain	Financial support for children		
Theme	Family benefits		
Subtheme	Public income support for children		
Indicator	Income support for couple with children (high income) (Percent of average earnings)	Income support for a single parent (Percent of average earnings)	Income support for couple with children (medium income) (Percent of average earnings)
Austria	16.0	18.4	16.0
Belgium	12.8	14.1	12.8
Bulgaria	14.9	14.9	14.9
Cyprus	4.4	4.4	4.4
Czech Republic	9.3	24.3	13.8
Denmark	7.5	19.5	7.5
Estonia	11.9	23.0	11.9
Finland	8.6	11.5	8.6
France	12.1	8.8	9.5
Georgia	:	:	:
Germany	13.6	13.3	12.0
Greece	0.8	0.5	0.8
Hungary	17.0	18.8	17.0
Ireland	11.4	25.1	11.4
Italy	6.6	15.2	7.5
Latvia	12.1	12.1	12.1
Lithuania	2.0	2.0	2.0
Luxemburg			
Malta	0.0	10.2	4.4
Netherlands	5.9	6.2	5.9
Norway	6.9	13.1	6.9
Poland	0.0	0.0 ★	0.0
Portugal	7.0	8.8	7.7
Romania	: ★	: ★	: ★
Russia	:	:	:
Slovakia	12.4	12.5	12.4
Slovenia	: ★	: ★	: ★
Spain	3.7	5.3	For details please see the indicator's documentation in the methodological report
Sweden	8.2	8.2	
United Kingdom	5.8	17.1	
Source:	Eurostat 2009	Eurostat 2009	Eurostat 2009
Back to topics			

The head of the table provides information on the indicators. If there are specific comments a symbol with a question mark will appear in the row with the indicator name. If the user moves with the mouse pointer on the symbol, the comment pops up. Country specific comments are indicated by yellow stars. When moving with the mouse pointer on a star the indication appears that the user should consult the methodological report for further details (see bottom left of figure 3). At the top and the end of the table there is the possibility to switch back to the starting page to select a new subtheme.

3. Measurement problems

In the previous section, we have outlined on what level we aim to collect indicators and what are the requirements indicators should fulfil to contribute to our specific perspective on how the state defines and shapes intergenerational relations. This section deals with the methodological problems of indicators. They refer on the one hand to the validity and adequacy of the indicators and on the other hand concern the issue of harmonization and comparability of the measures between countries (Atkinson, Cantillon, Marlier, and Nolan 2002; Fahey, Nolan, and Whelan 2003).

3.1 Accounting for within country variation

Providing valid and adequate information on social policy output is like squaring the circle, because of multiple variations. At least four levels of variation could be characterized:

- 1) Variety of policy measures for a specific group. A recent study for example has identified more than 140 policy measures to support families with children in Germany. Some of these measures are only addressed to families with low income, some to families with special characteristics (e.g. pregnancy, unemployment, large number of children etc.), and some for families with specific expenses, like costs for commercial care or education (Bundesministerium für Familie and Fraunhofer Institut 2006). The question is: What are the relevant, i.e. most important, policy measures?
- 2) Variation in the mix of public and private contribution. In particular for social services, in many countries public authorities are not the direct provider of services but regulate and (co-)finance the service sector. Financial support is either provided through social transfers used to cover individual caring costs or through subsidies to the service providers. In general, public spending does not cover all expenses. In consequence a semi-public service structure emerges. The question is: What are public provisions and how may they be compared across countries?
- 3) Variation of single policy measures by specific characteristics. Eligibility conditions and benefits level of a policy measure may vary by personal or family characteristics. Child allowances may be more or less generous depending on income or employment status of the parents, birth order of children, and age of the child. In addition, benefits may be higher for specific groups, such as single parents, disabled children, families living in poorer regions etc. A policy measure may also be organized in phases,

providing a different level and type of benefits for the same person over the entitlement period. For instance, maternity leave payment in United Kingdom in 2008 are provided for the first 26 weeks as income replacement, in the consecutive 13 weeks as a flat rate payment and for the remaining 13 weeks there is no payment at all. By contrast, in Denmark, there is no distinction between the maternity and the parental leave period in the level of compensation. The question is: How to deal with the variation given the objective to present few, comparative indicators?

- 4) A fourth crucial point is regional variation and fragmentation within countries. Policy measures are often regulated and implemented at a regional or municipality level; or they are administrated by social partners. The national government may provide only a framework legislation that may leave a varying degree of autonomy to responsible authorities in deciding about concrete entitlements. With regard to regional variation, Germany offers a telling example: The coverage rate of public child care facilities for children younger than 3 years in Germany was 10.2 percent in 2002. Regional variation is however huge. The range is from around two to three percent in south-west Germany, up to 56 percent in Saxony-Anhalt, which is above the average of Sweden at that time (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009: 220). A similar level of variation is found in Italy, although the upper threshold is much lower. France offers an example of fragmentation across economic sectors in its public pension system. There is a general scheme for the national minimum pension; but the second part of public pensions is governed by occupational branches which, although they structure their pension schemes according to national framework legislation, manage and decide independently about specific benefit provisions. The question is: How to deal with variations of social rights and benefits within countries?

The main task of this database was to reduce complexity without obliterating the heterogeneity within a country. The first question concerns the relevant policies measures. Relevant in our definition means that a policy measure should have a broad effect and provide substantive means of support to the majority of the target group. Therefore we look mainly on universal programmes which are provided for all members of the target group. Only in case of financial responsibilities for the elderly we have considered minimum pension benefits, which concern only a quota of all pensioners, for two reasons. First, in most of the countries there are special schemes for minimum income provision for elderly people whereas all other citizens have to rely on social assistance payments. Second, occupational pension benefits depend heavily on the contribution history and therefore on employment and caring careers.

How pensioners are decommodified and defamilialised might hardly be generalised from the income replacement rate of a hypothetical pensioner. Looking at the minimum pension level, instead, provides information on the minimum income which is guaranteed to a person or a couple in retirement age (almost) irrespective of the pension contribution records.

With regard to the situations in which services are not directly provided by the state or local government, but are totally or partly subsidized by public money, for our purposes we consider services to be part of a public system as long as public funding covers the costs of the services and the state or local authorities regulate the conditions of access and delivery of such services. We are aware that in comparative view there are various degrees of unobserved state involvement in the services sector which may level cross countries differences. And the form public subsidisation takes is relevant for the degree of its universality: tax allowances are more counter-distributive than direct subsidies. In this perspective the Dutch case, where since 2005 childcare services are private and funded only through tax allowances is a particular difficult case to allocate in our scheme. Finally, we did not consider as part of public policies/responsibilities all instances in which there are privately organised risk security schemes, even if they may be partly subsidized through tax exemptions, as long as financially the majority of contributions is paid by employers or the individuals themselves.

The third open issue is how to deal with the variation of benefits between social groups. One prevalent solution is to define model or standard cases (Bradshaw, Ditch, Holmes, and Whiteford 1993; Kamerman and Kahn 1978). We used such models to restrict complexity. In particular, in the case, intra-country variations concern only specific groups which represent only a small part of the population, or are adopted only by few countries we did not distinguish between different model cases. We document, however, in what way state benefits vary.

Regional variation is not addressed in the database itself. But if there are large differences between regions or municipalities, we integrate this information in the country specific comments included in this report. It should be however considered that regional information is not always available and therefore the documentation is not complete. For the same reason, we are not able to provide information on the exact range of regional variation, but only mention that there are considerable differences. With regard to the fragmentation of public schemes, we rely on already aggregated sources which have dealt with this issue according to their own definitions. In most of the cases, we have chosen the scheme or policy programme which is most prevalent in the country.

All four aspects of within country variation also affect the comparability of indicators across countries. The restriction to a specific portfolio of policy measures under study, the assumption that the state involvement in different policy fields is the same in all countries, the focus on specific model cases or modes of variation and the fact that we did not consider regional diversity and fragmentation of policy schemes results in that the picture we draw on intergenerational social policies is more robust and more reliable in countries with centralised, state operated policies than in countries with fragmented and regionalised policy systems. With our limited set of indicators, Sweden is an example of the former group of countries than Italy which belongs to the latter group. In the next section further aspects are presented which have to be considered for cross country comparisons.

3.3 Harmonising information across countries

The harmonisation of cross-national data concerns theoretical and methodological aspects. Theoretically, the key question is what is compared and how to define what are high or generous provisions and what are low or scarce provisions. Coverage rates are in this respect easier to compare than financial benefits levels, particularly if we consider the huge economic differences between the EU member states. The fact that the monthly child allowances for a family with two children in Luxembourg was in 2004 higher than average net income of an so called production worker in the Czech Republic well exemplifies the need to relate financial benefits not only to the cost of living, but to the average income at the national level in order to adequately assess the value of public effort. We therefore relate financial support in any case to an average net national income level – either as an individual net replacement rate or as a share of an average net income of a production worker the country.

Although conceptually easier and simpler to compare, coverage rates pose some problem, in so far the reference population is not always clearly identifiable. In the case of child care, the reference group are all children in a certain age group. For individuals who are no longer children but still need care there is not a clearly comparable denominator. First, the number of individuals needing care may not be assumed a priori on the basis of a univocal indicator, such as age. We rather need an actual counting of such individuals. But in best cases, there are only estimates. Second, institutional definitions of care dependency vary across countries, therefore introducing heterogeneity in the definition of the reference population. We have followed the use of relating the recipients of long-term care measures to the population aged 65 and over (when available, we have also the incidence on the population 65 and over). This

operation is based on two assumptions that we know are not empirically verified. The first is that all or most individuals receiving care are over 65 year of age (only some country distinguishes its data by recipients' age, allowing separating the non old). Although for the countries for which we have the data the large majority of care recipients is old, we know that care dependency may affect also the young and the mature adults. The second assumption is that in all countries the share of individuals with care needs is about the same, which again may not be really tested empirically. However, this is the maximal information at hand.

Methodologically, several problems arise from the different ways statistics are collected at the national level and from differences in what kind of provisions are considered. In particular, the comparison of social services turns out as problematic for at least five reasons (Eurostat 2004):

- 1) Different forms of services are considered. It is often not clear what kinds of services are included and accounted for in the statistics. In some countries, for example, child minders not working for a caring institution are not considered, in other countries they are. The underlying reason is that statistics are produced at the background of different data providers.
- 2) Double counting of services. Depending on the way statistics are collected, in some countries service coverage is calculated on the basis of service recipients, without considering whether an individual receives several items from services or whether different individuals receive that service. Individuals therefore may be counted repeatedly, particularly if statistics are based on the recipients of different service providers. For instance, a care dependent person receives medical care, home help and meals on wheels from different providers. Each provider counts this person as a recipient so that in sum three persons appear in the statistics whereas only one person has been served.
- 3) Different modes of accounting. Countries differ with respect to the criteria for accounting recipients. For example, in some countries it is enough that a child attends a care service only one day a year to be accounted for. In other countries, a child in order to be counted must be enrolled in a child care centre for the entire schooling/caring year.
- 4) Differences in the intensity of care provision. Some countries count short care arrangements, like play groups in the Netherland, in the same way as full-time care

provision. In other countries, these short-time arrangements are not considered. Coverage rates therefore are based on heterogeneous criteria.

- 5) Finally, data for an indicator do not always refer to the same year. For the database we aimed to collect the data for the year 2004 that is the period when the first wave of the Gender and generation survey was launched in the countries which took part to it. This however was not always possible. The year of reference might deviate. In the worst case – places in institutional care homes – the overall range of reference period is between 1998 and 2007. Variation in the reference year are in particular problematic in countries which have implemented new policy reforms, but still provide data referring to the old system.

The methodological problems raised above are not always visible. Often the documentation about the statistical concepts and sources provided in studies and databases is meagre and there is hardly a chance to trace back the data processing to its beginning. We tried it for at least two indicators and failed because international organisation like the OECD and Eurostat mainly assemble their comparative information on the basis of national reports. There is no central contact agency that has in-depths knowledge about the data. Our attempts to call back the national informants have turned out as difficult and finally not successful. We have tried to overcome these cross-checking sources and relying on our own national informants. But a degree of fuzziness remains. The MULTILINKS data base user should therefore be aware of these problems and be cautious when comparing the figures across countries, particularly in the area of care policies.

4 Documentation of indicators

In this section we provide the detailed documentation of all indicators. The order of the section corresponds to the outline of the database structure. To find a specific indicator we recommend looking at the list of indicators provided in section 4.1 and click on the page reference. You will be automatically directed to the documentation of the specific indicators.

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4.2 Maternity and parental leave

4.2.1 Maternity leave

General remarks:

- The indicators on eligibility criteria and length of maternity leave refer to the availability of cash benefits. Benefits in kind for screening examination and other health or sickness related benefits are not considered. As a rule, they are accessible to all or at least all insured mothers.
- Special regulations which might apply for mother who give multiple births, for single mothers, or for mother with several children etc. are not considered here.
- Contributions by employers to top up the maternity benefit are only considered, if employer's payments are statutory. The non statutory benefits differ much between countries and within countries by occupational sector, contract type, and size of the enterprise.

Maternity leave: eligibility criterion: employment status

Definition	Employment status mothers (to-be) must have in order to be eligible for maternity benefits.
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	CZ: (Rabusic 2009), GE: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	BG: Voluntary insurance for self-employed and farmers. LU: There are two maternity benefits. One for insured employed or self employed women (Prestations en espèces de maternité) and one for all other resident women (allocation de maternité). The information in the database refers to the first allowance.

Maternity leave: eligibility criterion: previous employment or social insurance records

Definition	Length of employment or insured time before birth to be eligible for maternity leave.
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG:(Kostova 2009), CZ:(Rabusic 2009), GE:(GGP 2009),(ISSA 2009), RO:(Chromkova Manea 2009), RU:(GGP 2009; Kravchenko 2009), SI:(Stropnik 2009), all others:(MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	DK: There are special regulations for trainees and self employed. IE: Employees: 39 contributions paid in the 12 months before the first day of maternity leave or 39 contributions paid since first starting work, and 39 contributions paid or credited in the relevant tax year before the benefit year, or 26 contributions paid in each of the two relevant tax years before the benefit year. Self-employed: 52

	<p>contributions paid in either the last or second last complete tax year before the benefit year in which the claim is made.</p> <p>MT: The maternity benefits is payable to women who do not receive maternity payments from their employers.</p> <p>UK: Criteria described in the database refer to Statutory Maternity Pay. For mothers who cannot get Statutory Maternity Pay, the criteria are: employed and/or self employed in at least 26 weeks in the 66 week period before the week the baby is due and earns at least 44 euro (2004) a week on average.</p>
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Duration of maternity leave

Definition	Maximum length of standard maternity leave.
Unit	Weeks
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG:(Kostova 2009), CZ:(Rabusic 2009), GE: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), RU: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Extended leave time in case of multiple births, single parents or other reasons are not considered.
Country specific comments	<p>FI: Originally the length of maternity leave is given in weekdays, excluding Sundays. In the database we recalculated the length including Sundays. 105 weekdays correspond to 120 days (17.5 weeks).</p> <p>NO: Maximum period reserved for mothers.</p> <p>UK: Only leave time for mothers with payment is considered.</p>

Level of payment during maternity leave

Definition	Cash benefit during maternity leave in percent of income before take up of the leave.
Unit	Percent of net income replacement
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CZ: ISSA 2008, (Rabusic 2009), EE: (Pöldma 2009), GE: (GGP 2009), ISSA 2008, RU: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), (Kravchenko 2009), SI: (Stropanik 2009), all others: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	In case of flat rate payments the level is calculated at the base of an average net income of a production worker in the respective year (Eurostat 2008b).
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Self-employed and free-lance workers receive a flat rate payment.</p> <p>BE: First 30 day: 82 %, other 75 day: 75 % with ceiling, civil servants: 100 %. The average of 77 % is calculated as follows: $((30 \text{ days} * 82 \%) + (75 \text{ days} * 75 \%)) / 105$.</p> <p>CY: This is the rate for the first child. The payment is increased, if more dependents live in the household.</p> <p>CZ: There is an upper ceiling. Maternity benefits are 69 percent of a daily assessment base. The daily assessment base is calculated as a percentage of the insured's gross earnings. Different rates are accounted for different income levels. For our calculation, we use the average gross income to estimate the daily assessment base. This amount was</p>

	<p>multiplied by 0.69. Finally the calculated benefit is related to the net average income.</p> <p>DK: There is an upper ceiling.</p> <p>FI: During the first 56 days of leave, the payment is equal to 90 per cent of earnings calculated on an annual basis up to a ceiling of 43,700 euro, with a lower percentage for earnings above the ceiling. After this initial period of leave, benefit is paid at 70 per cent of earnings up to 28,400 euro, again with a lower percentage for higher earnings. Mothers not employed and those whose annual earnings are less than 6,513 euro, before birth get a minimum flat-rate allowance of 11.45 euro (2004) or 15.20 euro (2008) a working day. Calculation $(9.33 * 90 + 8.16 * 70) / 17.5$</p> <p>FR: There is an upper ceiling and a minimum payment.</p> <p>GR: Flat rate payment varying by number of dependants. In 2004, the minimum rate is 40.17 euro per day in case of no further dependent persons in the household and the maximum is 56.23 euro in case of four or more dependants. The level of compensation is calculated on the basis of the minimum provision minus 10.5 percent tax deduction and related to the net average income.</p> <p>HU: The replacement rate of 70 percent relates to gross earning, but it is taxable and therefore should approximately also represent the net replacement rate.</p> <p>IE: For the first 18 weeks, 70% of average weekly earnings in the relevant tax year. Minimum ceiling in 2004 is 151.60 euro, and maximum benefit is 232.40 euro per week. In comparison to the average net income, the upper ceiling applies and therefore the level of compensation is lower. Calculation $(232.40 \text{ euro} * 4.35 \text{ weeks}) / 2002 \text{ euro (average net income in 2004)} * 100) * (18 \text{ paid weeks} / 26 \text{ weeks overall})$</p> <p>LU: Lower ceiling through flat rate allowance based on residency. LU: There is another allowance for all other resident women (allocation de maternité). It is a flat rate payment of 184.16 euro per week in 2004 and 194.02 euro in 2008 paid for 16 weeks.</p> <p>LV: The maternity benefit is 100 percent of taxable income during previous 6 months. The benefit itself is not taxable. The level of compensation is related to net income by a gross/net factor calculated at the base of average income. The factor is 1.40. Therefore estimated compensation level for an average earner is 140 percent of net income.</p> <p>MT: A flat rate of 47 euro (2004) is paid for 13 weeks. The compensation level is calculated from the average monthly payment of the maximum of 14 weeks of leave and related to the net average income.</p> <p>NL: Lower and upper ceiling of benefits.</p> <p>NO: There is a flat rate payment for non-employed mothers, paid as a lump sum (in 2004: 4090 euro). The income related payment is reduced to 80 percent of earning in case the long leave option has been chosen. There is an upper ceiling six times the basic national insurance benefit payment (in 2004: overall 42953 euro a year).</p>
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	<p>PL: The replacement rate of 70 percent relates to gross earnings, but it is taxable and therefore should approximately also represent the net replacement rate.</p> <p>PT: With a lower ceiling</p> <p>RO: The indemnity for maternity leave is 85% of the average insured gross earnings over the last 6 months. This amount is not subject to taxation. Therefore a gross-/net income factor is calculated on the base of the average income (1.39) and the gross compensation level is multiplied by this factor.</p> <p>SI: If the contributions were paid for a period shorter than 12 months, the minimum wage is taken into account for the missing period. The minimum is 55 per cent of the minimum wage. Women not insured at the time the leave starts, but who have been insured for at least 12 months in the last three years before the start of Maternity leave receive 55 to 105 per cent of the minimum wage, depending on the period they have been insured for in the last three years.</p> <p>SK: With an upper ceiling.</p> <p>ES: The benefit is defined as 100% of the calculation basis. Calculation basis is a quotient of the contribution basis of the month prior to the date of leave, divided by the number of days corresponding to this contribution. Benefits are subject to taxation. There is no description at hand that documents how the calculation basis is related to the actual income. What quota of the contribution basis is accounted for? Is gross or net income considered? Which number of days is used as a divisor?</p> <p>SE: The compensation level is the same as for the sickness cash benefit (sjukpenning), the factor 0.97 is multiplied by 80% of the income qualifying for sickness cash benefit. Calculation: $100 * 0.97 * 0.8$.</p> <p>RU: With a lower and an upper ceiling. One minimum monthly wage (MMW) is paid to the unemployed since January 1996; and two MMW are paid for those mothers whose annual record of work is less than 3 months. Additional pregnancy registration supplement: 300 rubles are paid when the pregnancy is registered</p> <p>GE: With upper ceiling for non-public employees.</p>
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4.2.2 Parental leave

General remarks:

- The duration of parental leave is given for full-time leave. Several countries allow for a combination of part time leave and reduced working hours which extend the maximum time parental leave could be taken.
- There are different approaches in European countries not only with regard to parental duration but also with regard to parental leave compensation. The latter concern not only level of compensation, but its duration. In some countries compensation – more or less generous – covers all the leave period (which is the period in which a parent may stay off work with job protection), in others, leave duration is longer than the period which is compensated; in still others, compensation operates on a sliding scale, depending on the length of leave (for all these situations the term *parental leave benefit* is used). Another types of payment for child care is provided independent of parental leave which means that they are legally separated, with its specific eligibility rules and duration. The payment is provided independent of whether a parent takes parental leave or not, but it is sometimes bound to reduced employment (for this measure the term *child rearing benefit* is used). In MISSOC, for example, there is the distinction between child care benefits and child rearing benefits. The former are tied to parental leave whereas the latter seem to be only tied to the age of the child and sometimes to the employment status of the receiving parent or to the non-usage of public child care services. Usually, however, child rearing benefits may be received after the expiration of the parental leave or in alternative to it in case of non working or part time employed parents.
- All payments which are connected to birth, parental leave or the child caring responsibilities for young children are described in the database. But the calculation of income replacement during leave is based only on those benefits which are paid during the parental leave on a regular, mostly monthly, basis.
- Variation for specific groups, like single mothers, multiple births or the birth of a disabled child are not considered.

Parental leave: eligibility criteria

Definition	What kind of employment status parents must have in order to be eligible for parental leave?
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009) ,CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (GGP 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Caisse Nationale de Prestations Familiales 2004), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Shcherbakova 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009) all others: (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	AT: Each parent can reserve up to three months of parental leave to use it until the child is seven years old. BE: In case the employment is less than one year, the employer can grant parental leave by agreement to the employee. Self employed are not eligible. DK: Up to 13 weeks of parental leave could be taken

	until the child reaches the age of eight. EE: Fathers are eligible only if the child is older than six months
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Duration of parental leave

Definition	Maximum length of net parental leave, considering the claims of both parents.
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (GGP 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Shcherbakova 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	If the duration of parental leave is defined by a certain age of the child and the payment is provided after the end of maternity leave, we calculate a net period of payment by subtracting the maternity leave after child birth from the maximum age of the child who entitles to the parental leave benefit.
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Each parent can reserve up to three months of parental leave to use it until the child is seven years old.</p> <p>BE: Parental leave is an individual right. The six months are subdivided in three per parent. If the parent continues to work part time, the leave time is extended to six months. If the parent does not work only one day per week the leave lasts 15 months. Parental leave for parents with twins, or with a disabled child is prolonged.</p> <p>BG: Parents may take parental leave until the child reaches the age of two. For the net parental leave the 270 days of maternity leave which follow after child birth are subtracted from the maximum of 30 months (24 paid and 6 unpaid). From the fourth child on, the length of parental leave is extended by six months.</p> <p>DK: The leave may be extended up to 46 weeks for employees and 40 weeks for self-employed at a lower monthly payment. It is also possible to extend leave time while being part-time employed from 32 to 64 weeks.</p> <p>DE: A maternity leave of 8 weeks after child birth is assumed, and subtracted from the total parental leave.</p> <p>FI: Total leave time is a combination of parental leave and home care leave. The length of parental leave is 158 working days (approx. 6 months). Subsequent to parental leave, the parent who is not or only part-time employed may take home care leave until the child reaches the age of three years.</p> <p>FR: A maternity leave of 12 weeks after child birth is assumed and subtracted from the total parental leave.</p> <p>GE: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of three. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 36 months minus 56 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>GR: Parental leave is an individual right. The seven</p>

	<p>months are subdivided in three and a half months per parent.</p> <p>IE: Parental leave is an individual right. The 28 weeks are subdivided in 14 weeks per parent.</p> <p>IT: Parental leave is an individual entitlement of six months per parent, but the total amount of leave taken by the two parents cannot exceed 10 months or eleven if the father has taken at least three months. It can be taken in pieces and until the child is 8.</p> <p>LV: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of two. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 24 months minus 56 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>LT: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of three. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 36 months minus 56 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>LU: The parental leave is an individual right for each parent. It lasts either 6 months at a full-time basis or 12 months if the parent continues to work part-time.</p> <p>MT: The length of parental leave in the public sector is extended to 12 months.</p> <p>NL: It is an individual entitlement per parent. Parental leave is defined in working hours according to the contracted working hours. It is 13 times the weekly working hours which could be taken at a full-time basis or in combination with reduced employment.</p> <p>NO: Here the long option without the maternity quota of nine weeks is considered. Instead parents could decide to use the short option of 29 week plus the quota of 6 weeks for fathers at a higher income replacement level.</p> <p>PT: Parental leave is an individual right. The 6 months are subdivided in 3 months per parent. There is a special leave after the 6 months. Parents may take additional 2 years special leave on a full-time basis, extended to 3 years when there is a third or subsequent child and to four years when there is a severely handicapped or chronically ill child. This special leave can only be taken by one parent, who must prove that the other partner is employed or incapable of working. This special leave is not considered.</p> <p>RO: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of two. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 24 months minus 53 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>RU: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of three. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 36 months minus 70 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>SK: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of three. The net parental leave is calculated as the difference between the 36 months minus 154 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p>
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	<p>ES: Each parent is entitled to take leave until three years after childbirth. During the first year, return to the same job position is protected; after the first year, job protection is restricted to a job of the same category. The maternity leave is accounted for parental leave and therefore we subtract the six weeks of maternity leave which must be taken after child birth from the total leave time of 36 months. Employees with temporary contracts can only claim leave that is shorter than their contract period.</p> <p>SE: The 18 months include the paid parental leave for fathers and mothers (14 months) and the possibility to take unpaid parental leave until the child reaches the age of 18 months.</p> <p>UK: The 12 months are composed of six months unpaid leave reserved for mothers and three months parental leave for each parent. Thus nine months are reserved for the mother and three for the father.</p>
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Parental leave benefit: eligibility criteria

Definition	What criteria parents have to fulfil in order to be eligible for parental leave allowance?
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (GGP 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Shcherbakova 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	Only those allowances are considered which are tied to parental or child-care leave. All benefits which are granted because of reduced working hours or lack of working status or to restricted usage of public child care facilities as well as benefits which are paid beyond the maximum parental leave period are documented as child care allowances.
Country specific comments	<p>AT: The parental leave benefit is only paid to the youngest child in case there is more than one child aged less than 3 years.</p> <p>BE: In case the employment is less than one year, the employer can grant parental leave by agreement with the employee. Self employed are not eligible</p> <p>EE: There are two schemes, one for employed parents, which offer benefits for 225 days (2004) and from 2006 for 315 days. The other is for not employed parents which receive grants for 13 months. The former is paid after the maternity leave benefit expires, the latter is paid from the day of birth if the parent has been never employed before (see also maternity leave regulations).</p> <p>GE: According to our source, the parental leave benefit was repealed in 1994 and re-established in a different way in 2006.</p> <p>IT: The parental leave benefit is paid only if taken when the child is under 3. Periods taken when the child is 3-8 (the maximum age which entitles to the leave) are compensated only to low income parents.</p> <p>PL: Only if the monthly household income per capita is</p>

	<p>below a certain threshold (around 128 euro) a parental allowance is paid to the parent taking the leave. For the first child the maximum length of the payment is 24 months. If there is more than one child. The payment may be extended up to 36 months.</p> <p>PT: There is no payment for parents in parental leave aside from 15 "daddy days" paid at 100 percent of earnings.</p>
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Duration of payment of parental leave benefit

Definition	Number of months the parental leave benefit is paid.
Unit	Months
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (GGP 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), V: (Eglite 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Shcherbakova 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	If the duration of payment is defined by a certain age of the child and the payment is provided after the end of maternity leave, we calculate a net period of payment by subtracting the maternity leave after child birth from the maximum age of the child which entitles to the parental leave benefit. Further child care payments beyond the time of leave are not considered here. See child care allowances.
Country specific comments	<p>AT: The child rearing allowance is paid independently from parental leave.</p> <p>BE: It might be extended if the parent continues to work part time or takes only one day off per week.</p> <p>EE: The duration refers to the scheme for employed parents. Non employed parents receive parental benefit for 14 months, but at a lower payment level.</p> <p>DE: In 2004 there are the options between a payment for a period of 24 months at 300 euro or for a short period at 450 euro. We considered the long period here. However, we subtract from the 24 months period the 8 weeks of maternity leave after child birth because maternity leave payment is fully accounted for the parental leave benefit, and therefore employed mothers will not receive parental allowance during maternity leave. In some federal state the allowance is topped up but based on the means test.</p> <p>GE: Parental benefit is paid until the child reaches the age of 12 months. The net payment period is calculated as the difference between the 12 months minus 56 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>HU: This is the maximum leave if both parental leave schemes (GYES, GYED) are combined.</p> <p>LV: Parental benefit is paid until the child reaches the age of two. The net payment period is calculated as the difference between the 24 months minus 56 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>LU: The parental benefit is either paid 6 months at a full-time basis or 12 months if the parent continues to work part-time. The monthly payment for the 12 months period is half of the payment during the six month period.</p>

	<p>NO: The parents could decide to take only 29 weeks of parental leave (irrespective of the 6 weeks for the father) with a higher income replacement level. In addition there is the option of a childcare leave of 12 months following the parental leave.</p> <p>PL: Only an income tested benefit is available.</p> <p>RO: Entitlement for parental leave is provided until the child reaches the age of two. The net payment period is calculated as the difference between the 24 months minus 53 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>RU: Parental benefit is paid until the child reaches the age of 18 months. The net payment period is calculated as the difference between the 18 months minus 70 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p> <p>SK: Parental benefit is paid until the child reaches the age of three. The net payment period is calculated as the difference between the 36 months minus 154 days of maternity leave after child birth.</p>
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Level of payment of parental leave benefit

Definition	Average cash benefit during parental leave in percent of income before take up of the leave.
Unit	Share of earned income
Years	2004
Missing countries	RU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (GGP 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), (European Data Service 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	In case of flat rate payments the level is calculated on the basis of the income of a net income of a average worker in the respective year (Eurostat 2008b).
Country specific comments	<p>AT: It is paid in the form of the child rearing benefit (Kinderbetreuungsgeld): a flat rate payment of 436 euro a month for the maximum leave time of 24 months.</p> <p>BE: There is an additional payment in the Flemish part during the first year of the child.</p> <p>BG: Data for 2006. Flat rate cash benefit which is determined by the annual Social Security Budget Act. In 2006 around 92 euro a month, approximately 65 percent of average net income.</p> <p>DK: There is an upper ceiling of 437 euro per week.</p> <p>EE: Payment is reduced in case a parent is starting employment. There is an upper (three time average earnings) and lower (231 euro per months in 2007) ceiling of the benefit level.</p> <p>FI: The income replacement for Finland is composed of three different benefit levels. In the first 30 workdays of the parental leave the parent receives 75 percent of average earnings based on the annual income of the parent. For the remaining 128 working days, the parent receives 70 percent of earnings. There is an upper ceiling, which is 35 percent lower for the second benefit period. In addition, the income replacement rate is lower for higher earnings. The third component is the home care allowance for the remaining time until the child</p>

	<p>reaches the age of three. It is a flat rate allowance with a basic payment of 294 euro a month and additional payments for other children in pre-school age and a means tested supplement. Some regions top up this allowance. The calculation of the overall replacement level is a crude approximation. The calculation formula is: $((35 \text{ week days} * 75 \% \text{ income replacement}) + (149.3 \text{ week days} * 70 \% \text{ income replacement}) + (789 \text{ week days} * 19.9 \text{ percent replacement level})) / 973.3$ day of maximum leave. The replacement level of the home care allowance is calculated by $372 \text{ euro (average allowance paid in 2005)} / 1871 \text{ (average net income)} * 100$</p> <p>DE: The calculation refers to the long payment period with a lower benefit. Calculation: $300 \text{ euro} / 1959 \text{ (average net income)} * 100$</p> <p>HU: The calculation is based on the longest leave option for an insured employee. We considered for the first two years after child birth minus the maternity leave after birth of 20 weeks an income replacement rate of 70 percent, and for the remaining 12 month the flat rate benefit of 88,82 euro per month (which, if related to the average income, grants an income replacement level of 24.14 percent). The final calculation is as follows: $((19.4 \text{ months} * 70 \text{ percent}) + (12 \text{ months} * 24.14 \text{ percent})) / 31.4 \text{ months}$.</p> <p>IT: Public sector employees receive 100 percent of earning during the first month of leave.</p> <p>LT: Until December 2006, parental leave benefits were 70 percent of the compensatory wages for the duration from the end the pregnancy and childbirth leave until the child reached one year. With an upper and lower ceiling. The compensatory wage (Kompensuojamasis uždardbis) is the average wage paid during the last quarter to the parent who cares for the child. During the remaining time, until the child reaches three years of age, 0.75 Minimum Standard of Living (around 25 EUR a week) were paid,</p> <p>LU: There is a flat rate payment of 1692.22 euro per months in 2004 which equals 68 percent of the average net income.</p> <p>NL: Employers could deviate from the statutory entitlements by collective labour agreement or in agreement with the works council or staff representatives. Employees might even be offered less than the statutory entitlement. Of the Collective Agreements 2003 on leave arrangements, 22% offered more than the statutory rights, 26% offered less. In 10% of the collective agreements (2003) parental leave was partly paid: between 20% and 90% of the previous salary (Deven and Moss 2005: 176).</p> <p>NO: The replacement rate of 80 percent is for the long leave option. If parents decide to take only 29 weeks of parental leave (irrespective of the 6 weeks reserved for the father) the parent on leave will receive 100 percent earnings replacement.</p> <p>RO: There is a flat rate payment of around 152 euro per month in 2004. The respective data on earning</p>
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	<p>provided by eurostat are not reliable (the monthly net average income is supposed to be 22 euro). Therefore the income information from 2007 is taken, which reports an average net income of 513 euro per month. The replacement rate is calculated as follows: $(152 / 513) * 100$.</p> <p>RU: Until 2007, there was only a monthly flat rate payment which in 2004 was around 14.15 euro (500 ruble). Unfortunately there is no reference income to relate the parental benefit. Since 2007, the benefit is related to parents' income (40 percent). There is a lower ceiling of around 41 euro. This indicates that the replacement rate in 2004 was very low.</p> <p>SI: There is an upper ceiling for income replacement. Full Income replacement is provided only if the parent who is taking leave has been covered by the parental leave insurance for at least 12 months in the last three years. Otherwise the minimum wage is taken into account for the missing reference period.</p> <p>SK: There is a flat rate payment of around 94 euro per month. The replacement rate is calculated as follows: $(94 / 565) * 100$.</p> <p>SE: For the first 390 days of parental leave income replacement level is 80 percent. However, the share of 80 percent is calculated on a reduced income (-1.1 percent), thus the effective replacement rate is 79 percent. For the remaining 90 days a flat rate benefit is paid of around 20 euro a day, which is 32 percent of an average net income. The overall replacement rate is calculated like follows: $((79.12 * 390) + (31.86 * 90)) / 480$</p>
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4.2.3 Child rearing allowance and birth grants

General remark

- Those child care benefits which are paid even though the parent is not on leave, or paid longer than the maximum leave time, are considered here as child care allowances.

Child rearing allowance: eligibility criterion:

Definition	Criteria parents have to fulfil in order to be eligible for child rearing allowance.
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009) RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), All others: (Deven and Moss 2005), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	The distinction between payments in connection with parental leave and child care allowance for parents who are not employed or only on a part time basis is difficult. We considered child care benefits which are paid even though the parent is not in leave or paid longer than the maximum leave time is as child care allowances.
Country specific comments	AT: The child rearing allowance is only paid to the youngest child if there is more than one child younger than 3 years. FI: The home care allowance in Finland is considered as a part of the parental leave regulation for child caring. FR: This information refers to the Complément de libre choix d'activité (CLCA). The criterion of two years of employment before birth refers to different reference periods before the birth of the child depending on the number of children. For the first child it is necessary to have been employed two years preceding birth, whereas for the third child the condition is to have been employed for at least two years within the last five years before birth.

Length of payment of child rearing allowance

Definition	Number of months the child caring or child rearing benefit is paid.
Unit	Months
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	AT: If both parents share the child care duties, the payment of the child rearing allowance may be extended up to 36 months.

	<p>EE: The child rearing allowance is paid from the end of payment of parental leave benefit until the child reaches three years of age. Calculation: (1095 days - 70 days maternity leave - 225 days parental benefit) / 30.4375 days per month.</p> <p>FR: The child rearing benefit is only paid until the child reaches the age of three years for families with more than one child. If it is the first child the allowance is paid only for the first six month after the end of maternity leave.</p> <p>GR: In Greece there is a special child care leave which could be taken up to 30 month after maternity leave. The leave allows reducing the working time by one hour a day with full earning replacement. There is an option to take the leave en bloc which results in a 3 to 4 months leave with full income replacement.</p>
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Level of payment of child care allowance

Definition	Child caring allowance as a share of net income of an average worker living in a single household.
Unit	Share of average net income
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: We have considered the amount for the longest duration (436 euro) and related it to the net average income in 2004 of 1917 euro.</p> <p>CZ: The payment is in 2005 approximately 270 euro a month, which is equivalent to 40 percent of an average monthly gross income. The share of the net average income is calculated by replacing the base value from gross to net average income.</p> <p>EE: Flat rate payment of 38.5 euro per month. Calculation: 38.5 euro / 281 euro net income * 100</p> <p>FR: Flat rate payment of 502 euro per month. Calculation: 502 euro / 1757 euro net income * 100</p> <p>LU: Flat rate payment of 461.65 euro per month. Calculation: 461.65 euro / 2487 euro net income * 100.</p> <p>NO: In 2004 the full benefit for not using a public child care service was around 460 euro a month. Parents who use a child care service on a part time basis are entitled to receive a reduced amount.</p>

Availability of a birth grant

Definition	Payment of a universal birth grant. Yes or no
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RU
Data sources	MISSOC 2008
General comments	Only birth grants are considered which are paid to each new born child or at least to the majority of new born

	children that is for at least the second born child and all subsequent children. Means or income tested provisions are mentioned in the comments but not part of the database.
Country specific comments	<p>BG: Only paid to mothers on an income test basis.</p> <p>DK: Grants are provided only in case of multiple births. There is a monthly allowance paid up to the child's seventh birthday. This payment is not considered here.</p> <p>FI: Granted only if health examinations during pregnancy have been made.</p> <p>FR: Only paid on an income test basis.</p> <p>IE: Only for multiple births (635 euro in 2004).</p> <p>IT: Unemployed mothers with a past record of employment and have paid at least three months of contributions; low income non employed mothers with no contributory record.</p> <p>LU: Granted only if health examinations during pregnancy have been made.</p> <p>NO: Non-employed mothers receive a maternity grant of around 4090 euro. We consider this payment as a cash benefit in case of maternity (see maternity leave payments)</p> <p>RO: Paid for the first four children.</p> <p>ES: There is a payment of 435 euro for the third and each subsequent child but this is not considered here because it concerns only a minority of children.</p> <p>UK: Only paid to mothers on an income test basis.</p>

Amount of birth grant in euro

Definition	Lump sum payment for the birth of a child. If the sum is different according to the birth rank, the allowance for the first child is documented
Unit	Euro
Years	2004
Countries missing	CY, GE, RU
Data sources	(MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Only birth grants are considered which are paid to each new born child or at least to the majority of new born children that is for at least the second born child and all subsequent children.
Country specific comments	<p>BE: For the first child, 755 for all subsequent children.</p> <p>CZ: The amount of birth grant is the Personal Needs Amount of the child (in 2004 52 euro for children younger than six years) multiplied by five, The amount is increased in case of multiple births.</p> <p>EE: Documented amount refers to the first child. For each subsequent child the amount is 191.80 euro.</p> <p>IT Unemployed mothers with a minimum contributory record 1.902 euro, unemployed mothers in low income households and with no contributory record, 1.545 euro</p> <p>LV: The amount of 300 euro is provided mothers who have undergone continuous medical examinations beginning before the 12th week of pregnancy. Otherwise only half of the grant is paid.</p> <p>LT: The grant for each child equals 6 times the Minimum Standard of Living (Minimalus gyvenimo lygis) which is around 33 euro.</p> <p>RO: Lump sum of around 60 euro.</p>

	SK: There is a flat rate payment of around 99 euro per month. The replacement rate is calculated as follows: $(99 / 565) * 100$.
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4.2.4 Paternity leave and fathers' recognition on parental leave

- Paternity leave refers to leave times especially dedicated to fathers usually around child birth.
- In addition, parental leave regulations may offer fathers a reserved quota of the parental leave, or give each parent an individual right for leave, which means that fathers have to take leave in order to utilise the entire leave period.

Paternity leave: eligibility criteria:

Definition	Employment status fathers must have in order to be eligible for paternity benefits.
Unit	Text information
Years	
Missing countries	BG, CY, RU, GE
Data sources	LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Moss and Wall 2007), (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	AT: No statutory right but paternity leave regulations could be part of collective agreements.

Duration of paternity leave

Definition	Maximum number of days a father is entitled to take paternity leave.
Unit	Days
Years	2004
Missing countries	BG, CY, RU, GE
Data sources	LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Moss and Wall 2007) (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	In order to make working days and weeks comparable, we set the amount of 5 working days equal to one week which is seven calendar days.
Country specific comments	BE: Ten working days. Three days are compulsory. DK: Collective agreements could offer an extended paternity leave. FI: Fathers living with the child's mother could claim 18 working day (three weeks) paternity leave. The father has the right of 12 bonus days, if he takes at least two weeks of parental leave. HU: Five working days (recalculated). PT: Five working days (recalculated). RO: Five working days (recalculated).

Level of payment for paternity leave

Definition	Average cash benefit during paternity leave in percent of income before take up of the leave.
Unit	Share of earned income
Years	2004
Missing countries	BG, CY, RU, GE
Data sources	LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK:

	(Svorenova 2009), all others: (Moss and Wall 2007), (Deven and Moss 2005)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>BE: The first three days are paid at 100 percent by the employer the remaining seven days are paid by the statutory health insurance at 82 percent. Calculation $((100*3)+(82*7))/10=87.4$</p> <p>EE: Fathers receive a payment of 4.20 euro per day. This accords to approximately 42 percent of an average net income in 2004: Calculation $(4.2 \text{ euro} * 14 \text{ days}) / (281 \text{ euro monthly income}/2)$</p> <p>FI: With upper ceiling. Lower rates for fathers with an income close to the upper ceiling.</p> <p>FR: With upper ceiling.</p> <p>LT: With a lower ceiling.</p> <p>LU: Paid by the employer.</p> <p>NL: Paid by the employer.</p> <p>NO: There is no public payment for paternity leave, but payments are provided by employers due to individual or collective agreements.</p> <p>SI: The first 15 days of the paternity leave are paid at 100 percent of the father's average earnings. For the remaining 75 days there is not payment but the social security contributions will be paid on the base of the minimum wage. Calculation: $(15*100) / 90$.</p> <p>UK: Flat rate benefit of approximately 145 euro per week. This amount was related to the average net income of 2456 euro per month. Calculation: $((145*2)/(2456/2))*100$</p>

Reserved quota for each parent or fathers on parental leave

Definition	Number of months of parental leave which is reserved for each of the two parents or which are explicitly dedicated to fathers.
Unit	Months
Years	2004
Missing countries	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009) RU: (Shcherbakova 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005) (Moss and Wall 2007)
General comments	For eligibility conditions please see the respective documentation on parental leave.
Country specific comments	<p>HU: In Hungary the first twelve months after child birth for insured parents are only reserved for the mother. The father may take leave only if he is not insured. The benefit in this case is lower.</p> <p>PT: There is a special incentive: If fathers take leave, they are entitled to 15 fully paid days of parental leave, which is otherwise unpaid.</p> <p>SI: In principle the 160 calendar days of parental leave are subdivided in 80 days per parent as an individual right. But parental leave may be transferred between the parents and therefore we do not account the 80 days as a quota for the father.</p>

4.2.5 Effective parental leave

Effective parental leave

Definition	Time of paid parental leave multiplied by the income replacement rate of the parental leave benefit or alternatively the child rearing allowance.
Unit	Paid leave time weighted by payment level
Years	2004
Missing countries	RU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Council of Europe 2005), CZ: (Rabusic 2009), GE: (GGP 2009), (ISSA 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), LU: (Council of Europe 2005), LV: (Eglite 2009), MT: (Council of Europe 2005), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (Svorenova 2009), all others: (Deven and Moss 2005) (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	RU: There is no harmonised information on average earning in Russia to relate the flat rate parental leave payment to an average income. Therefore the effective parental leave could not be calculated. ES: The paternity leave is accounted for as parental leave and therefore we subtract the 15 days of paternity leave from the total leave time of 36 months.

4.3 Child care services

4.3.1 Care for children younger than 3 years

General remarks:

- The individual entitlement to a child care place might be understood as a responsibility of the state to provide childcare for all children having the respective age, although actual demand of child care and places offered are not sufficient to cover all children. We do not consider the presence of such an entitlement in the calculation the coverage rates, however, although we are aware that in the face of an increasing demand governments might react differently based on the presence or not of such an entitlement.
- To measure public childcare support we refer to coverage rates by public (or publicly subsidised) child care institutions, not to enrolment rates. Since we aim at assessing the degree to which there is public responsibility in the provision of child care, we have made all possible efforts to exclude from calculation fully private and not subsidized childcare provision by market providers. Some ambiguity, however, may remain both in an over-evaluation and in an under-evaluation of subsidization. .

Individual entitlement for public childcare for children under three

Definition	Do children under three have an individual entitlement to public childcare provision?
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	IE, LU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), EE: (Pöldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SI: (Stropanik 2009), all others: (EURYDICE 2009)
General comments	Presence of individual entitlements is considered when parents have the possibility to take the issue to a court in case public child care provision is not offered. In some countries, legal norms define a sufficient provision of child care places as a responsibility of public authorities, but there is no individual claim for parents to receive a child care place for their child.
Country specific comments	BE: Only for children age 2 1/2 years and older. DK: As from the age of one year depending on the decision of municipalities. For all children as from age 2 1/2. EE: As from the age of one year. FI: As from the age of ten months. DE: Only for children age 2 1/2 years and older. LT: The municipalities are responsible obliged for the provision of the places at the nurseries, but the demands greatly exceed the municipalities' financial ability to provide. SE: If both parents work. GE: As from the age of two years.

Coverage rate for children under 3

Definition	Number of places in public (or publicly subsidised) childcare facilities as a share of the number of children aged 0 to 2 years.
Unit	Places per 100 children aged 0 to 2
Years	2003
Missing countries	MT, RO
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), IT: (ISTAT 2008), PL: (Kotowska, Abramowska-Kmon, and Styrac 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), LV (Eglite 2009), NL: (Portegijs, Hermans, and Lalta 2006), CY, DE, NO, ES, SE, (EURYDICE 2009), CZ, FR, IE, UK, SK, (OECD 2007), all others: (Plantenga and Remery 2005)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>BE: There are huge differences between the Flanders (81%) and French-speaking part of Belgium: (33%), because of autonomous institutional regulations. We did not find in our sources an overall average. Therefore we calculated an average weighted by the population age 0-2 years in the two regions Brussels is not considered. Calculation: $(81 * 62.14) + (33 * 38.86) / 100 = 62.35$</p> <p>CZ: According to our national informant, the coverage rate by public child care institutions is only around 1 %. We could not clarify which data source is more reliable.</p> <p>GE: There is only information on enrolment rates for different age groups. In 2005, the enrolment rate of children aged 1 to 2 years is 10.5 and for children aged 3 to 5 years is 39.3. In addition, there is the information that for pre-school institutions 60 percent of the free places were used in 2005 (LIT). Out of these information the coverage rate is estimated as follows: 0-2 Years: $(10.5 * 2 / 3) / 0.6 = 11.7$</p> <p>NL: So called play groups are not considered. They offer child care only for a few hours a week and often one of the parents is joining the play group. Around 11 percent of children under three take part at play groups. The Dutch case is particularly difficult to assess, especially after 2005, since from that year onwards municipalities keep only the responsibility to supervise childcare services but cannot organize them directly. Services are subsidized through tax allowances for employers and parents. But the worth of these allowances and the quota of cost which is left to families are unclear.</p> <p>CY: Year 2005/2006. IE: Year 2000. IT: Year 2005. NO: Year 2005. ES: Year 2005.</p>

4.3.2 Care for children age 3 to school age

Individual entitlement for public childcare for children between three to school age

Definition	Do children aged between three up to school age have an individual entitlement to public childcare provision?
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Missing countries	IE, LU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), EE: (Põldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), PT: (OECD 2007), SI: (Stropnik 2009), all others: (EURYDICE 2009)
General comments	Presence of individual entitlements is considered when parents have the possibility to take the issue to a court in case public child care provision is not offered. In some countries, legal norms define a sufficient provision of child care places as a responsibility of public authorities, but there is no individual claim for parents to receive a child care place for their child.
Country specific comments	CZ: Only the year before compulsory schooling. GR: For children aged five years and older. IE: Right to access primary schooling with the age of 4. HU: For children age five years and older. LV: For children age five years and older. LU: Attendance at the <i>Spillschoul</i> (pre-primary schools) is compulsory from the age of 4. PL: Only the year before compulsory schooling. PT: "Universal but optional" no individual right mentioned. RO: Only the year before compulsory schooling. SE: Children aged four and over or both parents work.

Coverage rate for children between 3 and 5 years

Definition	Number of places in public (publicly subsidised) childcare facilities as a share of the number of children age 3 to 5 years.
Unit	Places per 100 children aged 3 to school age
Years	2003
Missing countries	-
Data sources	EE: (Põldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), MT: (National Statistical Office of Malta 2005) PL: (Kotowska, Abramowska-Kmon, and Styrc 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), CY: NO: RO: ES: SE: (EURYDICE 2009), IE: UK:(OECD 2007), all others: (Plantenga and Remery 2005)
General comments	If compulsory school age starts before the age of 6 we assume a 100 percent coverage rate for the cohort in compulsory schooling.
Country specific comments	GE: There is only information on enrolment rates for different age groups available. In 2005 the enrolment rate of children aged 3 to 5 years is 39.3. In addition there is the information that for pre-school institutions 60 percent of the places were covered in 2005 (LIT). Out of these information the coverage rates are estimated as follows: 3-5 Years (39.3) / (5 / 3) = 65.5 SI: Plantenga and Remery (2005) report 59 % coverage rate in 2004. The national expert reports that it

	<p>is 82 % in 2007/2008. The difference might be a result of including the 6 year old children or not. Most of them are in compulsory school at that age and therefore the pre-school coverage rate is lower.</p> <p>CY: Year 2005/2006.</p> <p>IE: Year 2000. Share differs from Eurostat 2004 (60%), but the latter seems to include also private child care providers. The figure of 48 % taken from the reference source is adjusted because in Ireland compulsory school age starts at the age of four. For the fourth and fifth year of the child we assumed therefore a coverage rate of 100 %.</p> <p>NO: Year 2005.</p> <p>ES: Year 2005.</p> <p>UK: The figure of 80 % taken from the reference source is adjusted, because compulsory school age starts in United Kingdom at the age of five. For the fifth year of the child we assumed therefore a coverage rate of 100 %.</p>
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4.3.3 Care costs and opening hours

Child care costs

Definition	Out-of -pocket childcare cost for a two-earner couple, 167% of average income, full time care
Unit	Share of 167 % of average income
Years	2004
Missing countries	BG, CY, EE, GE, IT, LT, LV, MT, RO, SI, ES
Data sources	RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (OECD 2007)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Opening hours for pre-primary education

Definition	Opening hours for pre-primary education
Unit	Hours per day
Years	2004
Missing countries	AT, BG, FI, DE
Data sources	CZ: (Rabusic 2009), EE: (Põldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), PL: (Kotowska, Abramowska-Kmon, and Styrac 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), DK, FR, IE, IT, LU, SK, SI (Plantenga and Siegel 2004), all others: (EURYDICE 2009)
General comments	The number of hours refers to the opening time of the child care institutions. This may not coincide with the maximum caring time a day available for a child.
Country specific comments	AT: Huge variation of opening hours. DE: Huge variation of opening hours between child care institutions and between regions. The share of full day opening (more than 7 hours a day) in 2008 for children aged 3 to 5 years ranges from 9.3 percent in Baden Württemberg to 84.6 percent in Thuringia (Statistisches Bundesamt: 2009) GR: In the case of all-day Kindergarden the opening hours are for a maximum of 9 hours. LT: Normally 10 hours. Varies, 3-12 hours on weekdays. PL: 9-10 hours a day normally, half day is 5 hours. PT: Minimum of 8 hours, often 10-12 hours. RO: Normal 5 hours per day, prolonged 10 hours per day.

4.4 Education

4.4.1 Compulsory schooling period

Age at which compulsory school starts

Definition	Age at which compulsory school starts.
Unit	Age in years
Years	2002/2003
Countries missing	-
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (EURYDICE 2009)
General comments	Reference year is 2002/2003 except for Georgia and Russia.
Country specific comments	RO: Since 2003, compulsory education starts at age 6 (reached within the beginning of school year). In 1995-2003, compulsory education started at age 7 and lasted 8 years.

Ending age of full-time compulsory education

Definition	Ending age of full-time compulsory education
Unit	Age in years
Years	2002/2003
Countries missing	-
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (EURYDICE 2009)
General comments	Reference year is 2002/2003 except for Georgia and Russia.
Country specific comments	-

Minimum working age

Definition	The minimum working age refers to the age at which a person may be lawfully employed
Unit	Age in Years
Years	2008
Countries missing	-
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), all others: (Federation of European Employers 2008)
General comments	In most countries persons are allowed to work in family business and/or for limited hours with parental consent if they are younger than the statutory age limit.
Country specific comments	EE: But between 15 and 17 with parental consent for normal daywork. FR: But limitations until 18. GR: Twelve years in family businesses. IT: It was 15 until September 2007, then 16, following an increase in years of compulsory education raised from 9 to 10. Higher if hazardous work. LV: Thirteen years, with parents' permission and outside school hours. LT: Fourteen years, with parental permission to carry out light work. LU: But special protection up to the age of 18. NL: But limited to 8 hours a week if still at school. PL: If it includes vocational training (limitations until the age of 18).

	<p>RO: Fifteen, with parental consent if employed in certain fields.</p> <p>SK: But children under 16 may only work for up to 30 hours per week.</p> <p>ES: Eighteen for overtime, night work and employment in hazardous environments.</p> <p>SE: Those under 18 may only work during the day and under close supervision.</p> <p>NO: Those aged 13-18 may work part-time on light work.</p> <p>RU: With limitations till the age of 18.</p> <p>GE: 14 to 16 with parental or legal representative consent, during normal working hours.</p>
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School expectancy for a 5-year old (ISCED 0-6)

Definition	School expectancy is an estimate of the number of years a typical 5 year-old child can expect to be enrolled in the education system (ISCED 0-6) during his or her lifetime if current enrolment patterns remain unchanged.
Unit	Years
Years	2001/2002
Countries missing	RU, GE
Data sources	(European Commission 2005: 145)
General comments	Reference year is 2001/2002.
Country specific comments	<p>BE: Data exclude independent private institutions.</p> <p>DE: Advanced tertiary education research programmes (ISCED level 6) are excluded.</p> <p>IE: There is no public-sector provision at ISCED level 0. Many children follow a pre-primary curriculum in private institutions but data are lacking for the most part.</p> <p>LU: Most students in tertiary education study abroad and are not included. Many people enrolled at other ISCED levels also study abroad and are thus included in population data but not in enrolment data. In the case of ISCED level 5, data by age are lacking.</p> <p>RO: Advanced tertiary education research programmes (ISCED level 6) are excluded.</p> <p>SI: Advanced tertiary education research programmes (ISCED level 6) are excluded.</p> <p>UK: Population data refer to 2001.</p>

4.4.2. School hours

Attendance of after-school care

Definition	Percentages of pupils in the fourth year of primary education who attend a school offering a childcare service on school premises before or after lesson times, public and private sectors combined.
Unit	Percentage
Years	2000/2001
Countries missing	AT, BE, DK, FI, GR, IE, LU, MT, PL, PO, ES, RU, GE
Data sources	(European Commission 2005: 82)
General comments	Reference year is 2000/2001. School heads were asked in the questionnaire sent to them to indicate whether an out-of-school childcare service (before or after lessons) on school premises was offered to pupils at the school. The sampling procedure involved selecting schools and then pupils of a class in the fourth year of primary education. It sought to offer each pupil the same probability of being selected irrespective of the size of the school he or she attended. For this purpose, schools were weighted in such a way that the probability that they would be selected was inversely proportional to their size. This explains why the Figure does not directly show the proportions of schools associated with one or other of the factors at issue, but the proportions of pupils attending a school of the particular kind concerned.
Country specific comments	UK: Information for UK refers to England only.

Minimum teaching time in primary education

Definition	Recommended average minimum annual amount of teaching time in primary education. The teaching time corresponds to the notional minimum workload of pupils and is based on minimum national recommendations. For each year of primary education or full-time compulsory general secondary education, the workload is calculated by taking the average minimum daily load multiplied by the number of teaching days a year. Recreational or other breaks of any kind, as well as the time given over to optional lessons, are not taken into account. The total annual amounts of minimum teaching time are added up to give the total minimum workload in hours for primary education and full-time compulsory general secondary education. These values are divided by the number of years corresponding to each of the two levels.
Unit	Hours per year
Years	2002/2003
Countries missing	-
Data sources	IE, RU: (UNESCO 2009), all others: (European Commission 2005: 259f)
General comments	The year of reference is 2002/2003. The raw data used to prepare this Figure are available for each country and year of education in the Eurybase database on Teaching Time in Compulsory (EURYDICE 2009).
Country specific comments	BE: Only teaching time in public-sector schools is shown. DK: Teaching time has been reformed since the 2003/04

	<p>school year.</p> <p>FR: Teaching time depends on the core curriculum options selected by pupils for the final year of compulsory education. The most widespread situation (five-and-a-half hours a week) is shown here. Teaching time is undergoing reform. In 2002/03, only timetables in the first year of the <i>cycle des approfondissements</i> (the third year of primary school) were changed.</p> <p>GE: The academic year in primary and lower secondary education is divided in 3 trimesters, 12 weeks in each. Teaching time per week (5 days) for those in primary education is 20 hours a week. Calculation: (20 * 12 * 3)</p> <p>IE: Comparativity might be limited because of different data source.</p> <p>RO: In each year of compulsory education, schools may add two hours a week to the timetable for additional activities.</p> <p>RU: Comparativity might be limited because of different data source.</p> <p>SI: The 15 days set aside annually for special activities (science, sports, art and technology) are included.</p> <p>SE: The official recommendations are based on the whole of compulsory education. A uniform breakdown across the various years is shown here.</p> <p>UK: Information for UK refers to England only. The total number of hours is based on minimum recommendations for weekly or daily provision. It does not include time spent in the reception class at the start of compulsory education.</p>
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Minimum teaching time in secondary education

Definition	Recommended average minimum annual amount of teaching time in primary education. The teaching time corresponds to the notional minimum workload of pupils and is based on minimum national recommendations. For each year of primary education or full-time compulsory general secondary education, the workload is calculated by taking the average minimum daily load multiplied by the number of teaching days a year. Recreational or other breaks of any kind, as well as the time given over to optional lessons, are not taken into account. The total annual amounts of minimum teaching time are added up to give the total minimum workload in hours for primary education and full-time compulsory general secondary education. These values are divided by the number of years corresponding to each of the two levels.
Unit	Hours per year
Years	2002/2003
Countries missing	-
Data sources	IE, RU: (UNESCO 2009), all others: (European Commission 2005: 259f)
General comments	The year of reference is 2002/2003. The raw data used to prepare this Figure are available for each country and year of education in the Eurybase database on Teaching Time in Compulsory (EURYDICE 2009).
Country specific comments	AT: For lower secondary education, the number of hours shown are related to the <i>Hauptschule</i> followed by the <i>Polytechnische Schule</i> in column. The amount of teaching time has been reduced since the 2003/04

	<p>school year.</p> <p>BE: Only teaching time in public-sector schools is shown.</p> <p>CZ: The number of hours relates to teaching time in the <i>zakladni škola</i> (<i>Zakladni škola</i> curriculum) in column and then in the <i>zakladni škola</i>. Teaching time in the other two <i>zakladni škola</i> curricula (<i>Narodni škola</i> and <i>Obecna škola</i>) are not shown here.</p> <p>DK: Teaching time has been reformed since the 2003/04 school year.</p> <p>FR: Teaching time depends on the core curriculum options selected by pupils for the final year of compulsory education. The most widespread situation (five-and-a-half hours a week) is shown here. Teaching time is undergoing reform. In 2002/03, only timetables in the first year of the <i>cycle des approfondissements</i> (the third year of primary school) were changed.</p> <p>GE: The academic year in primary and lower secondary education is divided by 3 trimesters, 12 weeks in each. Teaching time per week (5 days) for those in upper secondary education is 25-30 hours a week. Calculation: $(27.5 * 12 * 3)$</p> <p>DE: For general lower secondary education, the number of hours relates the <i>Hauptschule</i> and <i>Realschule</i> in column. Data are based on an agreement between the Lander on minimum time allocation.</p> <p>IE: Comparativity might be limited because of different data source.</p> <p>NL: In the case of secondary education, the number of hours relates VMBO schools in column. The amount of teaching time for some subjects in VMBO provision depends on the section chosen, so an average has been shown.</p> <p>RO: In each year of compulsory education, schools may add two hours a week to the timetable for additional activities.</p> <p>RU: Comparativity might be limited because of different data source.</p> <p>SI: The 15 days set aside annually for special activities (science, sports, art and technology) are included.</p> <p>SE: The official recommendations are based on the whole of compulsory education. A uniform breakdown across the various years is shown here.</p> <p>UK: Information for UK refers to England only. The total number of hours is based on minimum recommendations for weekly or daily provision. It does not include time spent in the reception class at the start of compulsory education.</p>
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4.4.3 School attendance

Early school leavers

Definition	Early school leavers indicator denotes the percentage of the population aged 18-24 having attained at most lower secondary education and not being involved in further education or training. The numerator of the indicator refers to persons aged 18 to 24 who meet the following two conditions: (a) the highest level of education or training they have attained is ISCED 0, 1, 2 or 3c short and (b) they have not received any education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey. The denominator in the total population consists of the same age group, excluding the respondents who have not answered the questions 'highest level of education or training attained' and 'participation to education and training'.
Unit	Share of people aged 18-24
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RU
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008b)
General comments	Students living abroad for one year or more and conscripts on compulsory military service are not covered by the EU Labour Force Survey, which may imply higher rates than those available at national level. This is especially relevant for CY.
Country specific comments	CY: High standard errors due to low sample size until annual averages of quarterly data are used. IE: Provisional data. PT: Provisional data. SI: Extremely unreliable data.

Participation rates of 15-24 year old population

Definition	Students (ISCED 1 to 6) aged 15-24 years as a percentage of corresponding age population.
Unit	Share of people aged 15-24
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RU
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008b)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	BE: Data exclude independent private institutions DE: Data exclude ISCED level 6. CY: Most tertiary students study abroad and are not included. LU: ISCED 5 and 6 not included. Many pupils study abroad and are not included in enrolment but in population data, therefore all participation rates by age are underestimated. PL: Data exclude ISCED level 6. RO: Data exclude ISCED level 6. SI: Data exclude ISCED level 6.

Share of students among those aged 22

Definition	Students (ISCED 5-6) aged 22 as percentage of 22 year old population.
Unit	Share of people aged 22
Years	2004

Countries missing	GE, LU, RU
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008b)
General comments	The number of students also comprises students in private education institutions.
Country specific comments	BE: Data exclude independent private institutions. DE: Data exclude ISCED level 6. IT: Data exclude ISCED level 6. CY: Most tertiary students study abroad and are not included. LU: Partial coverage: the existing data is underestimated as coverage of ISCED 5A and ISCED 5B programmes is partial and therefore not provided. PL: Data exclude ISCED level 6. SI: Data exclude ISCED level 6.

Share of women among tertiary students

Definition	Percentage of women among all students in tertiary education irrespective of field of education.
Unit	Share of total students at this level
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RU
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008b)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	BE: Data exclude independent private institutions DE: Data exclude ISCED level 6. CY: The number of students studying abroad accounts for over half of the total number of Cypriot tertiary students. The fields of education in Cyprus are limited. LU: Data from 2003. Most tertiary students study abroad and are not included. SI: Data exclude ISCED level 6.

4.5 Family allowances

General remarks:

- All allowances and benefits which are granted due to maternity, child birth or as an income substitution during parental leave are not considered here, but documented in the section 4.2.3 on maternity and parental leave.

4.5.1 Child allowance

Universal access to child allowance

Definition	Is the child allowance paid to all children of a certain age, yes or no?
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009) All others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	BE: Bounded to employment. BG: Income tested. CY: Income tested. GR: Bounded to employment. IT: Bounded to dependent employment and income tested for both entitlement and amount. PL: Income tested. PT: Income tested. SI: Income tested. ES: Bounded to employment and income tested. GE: There are no direct child benefits in Georgia at the state level, except for families officially registered as living below poverty line that receive the state social benefit.

Age until the child allowance is paid

Definition	Minimum age of the child until the child allowance is paid.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009) All others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	The age threshold may be extended if the child remains dependent mainly because of education, unemployment, or disability. This is documented in the country specific comments. In Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain there is no age limit for disabled children.
Country specific comments	AT: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 26. BE: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 25. BG: Payment of child allowance ends earlier if the child has completed secondary education. CY: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 23 and

	<p>for men serving in military service up to the age of 25.</p> <p>CZ: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 26.</p> <p>EE: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 19.</p> <p>FR: The maximum is 20 years but payment of child allowance might end earlier depending on the income of the child.</p> <p>DE: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 25.</p> <p>GR: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 22.</p> <p>HU: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 23.</p> <p>IE: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 19.</p> <p>LV: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 20.</p> <p>LT: Nine years for families with one or two children. The duration of payment is up to the age of 18 for families with three or more children and could be extended up to the age of 24.</p> <p>LU: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 27.</p> <p>MT: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 21.</p> <p>PL: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 21. For children with disabilities who are still in education the child allowance is paid up to the age of 24.</p> <p>PT: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 24.</p> <p>RO: Payment up to the age of 18 or up to the secondary or post-secondary graduation.</p> <p>SI: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 26.</p> <p>SK: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 25.</p> <p>SE: Another allowance for children still in secondary education succeeds.</p> <p>UK: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 20.</p> <p>RU: Extended duration of payment up to the age of 18.</p>
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Variation of benefits by number of children

Definition	Variation of child allowance based on birth rank.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Benefits for families with more than three children are not considered as varying by age because the variation of benefits applies only to a small minority of families.
Country specific comments	DE: In Germany the fourth and each subsequent child receive a higher child allowance. NL: Only for children born before 1.1.1995 there is a differentiation of payment by birth rank.

Variation of benefits by age of the child

Definition	Variation of child allowance depending on the age of the child.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)

General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Variation of benefits by other characteristics

Definition	Variation of child allowance by other characteristics beside age of the child and birth rank.
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Child allowance as a share of average income

Definition	Level of child allowance for a family with two children, two and seven years old, as a share of net average income.
Unit	Share of net average income
Years	2004
Countries missing	RU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), all others: (Bahle 2008), (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	CY: A supplement for income strata 17130 to 34258 Euro yearly income is added. CZ: Family income is between 1.5 and 2.4 of family living minimum. IT: Yearly gross income of the recipient is between 30963 and 33809 Euro. MT: Families with a household income exceeding 23923 Euro a year. NO: There is a supplement payment for families living in the northern part of Norway which is not considered here. PT: Reference income is between 1.5 and 2.5 times the minimum wage. SI: The household income is between 75 percent and 99 percent of national average wage in the last year. ES: Family income per year exceeds 9,328.39 Euro.

4.5.2 Tax benefits

- General observation: tax benefits may occur either in the form of lowering the taxable income (deductions from income) or in the form of lowering the final tax (deduction from taxes). Given the fact that taxation is usually progressive, the former is usually more counter-redistributive than the latter, benefitting more those with higher incomes. The latter is usually flat rate deduction that is the sum to be deducted from taxes is the same for all tax payers.

Tax deduction for children

Definition	Is a tax deduction for children available? A tax deduction is an amount that can be subtracted, or deducted, from gross income, thus reducing the marginal income tax.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2005 with variations
Countries missing	GE
Data sources	AT, DE, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, PT, ES, UK: (Boesso, Košny, and Vernizzi 2002), BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Hajispyrou, Demetra Komodromou, Nicolaidou, and Pashardes 2006), CZ: (Galuscak and Zubricky 2006), DK: (Hansen 2004), EE: (Lüpsik, Paulus, and Vörk 2008), HU: (Hegedús, Lietz, and Szivós 2008), LT: (Stirling and Lazutka 2006), LV: (Vanags and Chandler 2006), MT: (Brinkworth, Micallef, Vella, Gravino, and Caruana 2008), NL: (Heidel and Loose 2004), NO: (Herlofson 2009), PL: (Levy and Morawski 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SE: (Eklind and Karlsson 2001), SI: (Čok, Kump, and Majcen 2008), SK: (Porubsky and Krajcir 2007)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	AT: Reference year is 1999. CZ: Reference year is 2005. There is an option of income splitting for married couples with at least one child. The tax deduction is the result of the lower tax rate for the equally divided income between the spouses. It is not directly linked to a child and therefore it is independent on the number of children. That is why we decided that there is no child related tax deduction. DK: Reference year is 2001. EE: There is an increased tax exemption for families with more than three children younger than 17 years. FI: Reference year is 1999. FR: Reference year is 1999. In France, there is not a system of child linked tax deductions, but for tax purposes the income of the whole household is divided by the family quotient. The higher the number of children, the lower the resulting tax. DE: Reference year is 1999. There is a tax deduction for children in Germany but it substitutes the child allowance. It is operated if the amount of tax reduction is higher than the child benefit. It involves therefore only parents with higher incomes. IT: Reference year is 1999. LT: High tax deductions for families with three or more children and for single parents. LU: Reference year is 1999. NL: Reference year is 1999. Tax deduction for child-linked documented expenses.

	<p>NO: Tax deduction for child-linked documented expenses. PL: Single parents could opt for joint taxation together with their minor children to receive lower tax rates. PT: Reference year is 1999. ES: Reference year is 1999. SE: Reference year is 1998. UK: Reference year is 1999.</p>
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Tax credits for children

Definition	Is there a tax credit for children available? A tax credit operates after taxes have been calculated on the gross income.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2005 with variations
Countries missing	GE
Data sources	AT, DE, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, PT, ES, UK: (Boesso, Košny, and Vernizzi 2002), BG: (Kostova 2009), CY: (Hajispyrou, Demetra Komodromou, Nicolaidou, and Pashardes 2006), CZ: (Galuscak and Zubricky 2006), DK: (Hansen 2004), EE: (Lüpsik, Paulus, and Vörk 2008), HU: (Hegedús, Lietz, and Szivós 2008), LT: (Stirling and Lazutka 2006), LV: (Vanags and Chandler 2006), MT: (Brinkworth et al. 2008), NL: (Heidel and Loose 2004), NO: (Herlofson 2009), PL: (Levy and Morawski 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), SE: (Eklind and Karlsson 2001), SI: (Čok, Kump, and Majcen 2008), SK: (Porubsky and Krajcir 2007)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Reference year is 1999. CZ: Reference year is 2005. There is an option of income splitting for married couples with at least one child. The tax deduction is the result of the lower tax rate for the equally divided income between the spouses. It is not directly linked to a child and therefore it is independent on the number of children. That is why we decided that there is no child related tax deduction. DK: Reference year is 2001. FI: Reference year is 1999. FR: Reference year is 1999. In France, there is not a system of child linked tax deductions, but for tax purposes the income of the whole household is divided by the family quotient. The higher the number of children, the lower the resulting tax. DE: Reference year is 1999. There is a tax deduction for children in Germany but it substitutes the child allowance. It is operated if the amount of tax reduction is higher than the child benefit. It involves therefore only parents with higher incomes. IT: Reference year is 1999. LU: Reference year is 1999. NL: Reference year is 1999. Tax deduction for child-linked documented expenses. PL: Single parents could opt for joint taxation together with their minor children to receive lower tax rates. PT: Reference year is 1999. ES: Reference year is 1999. SE: Reference year is 1998. UK: Reference year is 1999.</p>

4.5.3 Public income support for children

Public income support for single parents with two children

Definition	Difference in family benefits and tax allowances (deductions and credits) between a single parent with two children earning 67 percent of average gross income compared to a single person with the same income but without children as a share of average earnings (gross earning minus social security contributions).
Unit	Percent of average earnings
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RO, RU, SI
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008a)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	RO: Information from Eurostat on gross income is wrong. Social security contributions exceed the gross income. SI: No information on family allowances available. PL: Information for Poland seems to be wrong. Even for a single parent with only 67 percent of average income no child allowance is available. At least for this case the income tested child allowance should be accounted.

Public income support for couples with two children (medium income)

Definition	Difference in family benefits and tax allowances between a couple with two children earning 133 (100+33) percent of average gross income compared to a couple with the same income but without children as a share of average earnings (gross earning minus social security contributions).
Unit	Percent of average earnings
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RO, RU, SI
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008a)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	RO: Information on gross income is wrong. Social security contribution exceeds the gross income. SI: No information on family allowances available.

Public income support for single parent with two children (high income)

Definition	Difference in family benefits and tax allowances between a couple with two children earning 200 (100+100) percent of average gross income compared to a couple with the same income but without children as a share of average earnings (gross earning minus social security contributions).
Unit	Percent of average earnings
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RO, RU, SI
Data sources	(Eurostat 2008a)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	RO: Information on gross income is wrong. Social security contribution exceeds the gross income. SI: No information on family allowances available.

4.6 Obligations to support children

When do parents obligations to support their children stop?

Definition	Age at which parents stop having legal financial obligations towards their children.
Unit	3 categories: 1) Until adulthood, 2) Until adulthood + education, and 3) No age limit
Years	2007
Countries missing	CY
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), DK: (Statsforvaltningerne 2009), EE: (Pöldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), HU (Spéder, Blaskó, and Monostori 2009), NO: (Herlofson 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters 2009)
General comments	The data refer to 2007.
Country specific comments	BE: Until the child reaches majority or emancipation. EE: No limit for disabled children. HU: Only for first educational degree (diploma). IE: If the child is in education the parents are obliged to support until the age of 23. LV: If the child is in education the parents are obliged to support until the age of 24. RO: Until child reaches the age of 18 or financial independence. It is not totally clear whether the logical connection is "either/or", which means that the age limit is 18 years, or "and/or", which means that there is not age limit. SE: If the child is in basic education the parents are obliged to support until the age of 21.

Obligations to support children by other relatives

Definition	Are there other relatives of a child who have obligations to support in case parents are not able to support their children, yes or no?
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2007
Countries missing	CY
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), DK: (Statsforvaltningerne 2009), EE: (Pöldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), HU (Spéder, Blaskó, and Monostori 2009), NO: (Herlofson 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters 2009)
General comments	The data refer to 2007.
Country specific comments	EE: Grandparents have legal obligations towards their grandchildren. FR: All descendants and direct relatives in the ascending line. DE: (Great-) grandparents for (great-) grandchildren. GR: (Great-) grandparents against (great-) grandchildren. HU: If parents are unable to fulfil their obligations - close relatives (grandparents in the first place), In the lack of such a relative, a brother or sister over 18 takes over the responsibility. IT: Those liable to provide maintenance for children are

	<p>grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles. The closest relative according to the above ranking is liable to provide maintenance; should there be more than one person at the same level, liability is divided between them according to their financial situations.</p> <p>LV: Grandparents have legal obligations towards their grandchildren.</p> <p>LU: (Great-) grandparents against (great-) grandchildren.</p> <p>MT: The responsibility to supply maintenance falls onto adult brothers and sisters, of full or half-blood, so long as there is no-one to supply maintenance.</p> <p>PL: Consanguine relatives.</p> <p>PT: The following are required to pay maintenance in the indicated order: ascendants, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts.</p> <p>ES: Collateral relatives up to the second degree, if they have no closer relatives.</p> <p>GE: Grandparents and adult brothers or sisters.</p>
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4.7 Elderly care

4.7.1 Structure of care service provision

Existence of benefits in kind for long-term care

Definition	Is there a non-health related public provision of care services?
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, RU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), HU, NL, PL: (OECD 2005b), IT: (Naldini and Saraceno 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), all others: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Means or income tested provision for benefits in kind

Definition	Are the benefits in kind (services) means tested?
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	MT, GE, RU
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), HU, NL, PL: (OECD 2005b), IT: (Naldini and Saraceno 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), all others: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

4.7.2 Care service recipients among elderly people

Elderly people in institutional care

Definition	Percentage of population aged 65 and over in institutional/residential care.
Unit	Percentage
Years	1998-2007
Countries missing	GE, CY, HU, LV
Data sources	AT (Hörl 2005), BE (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG (Dimova and Dimov 2004), CZ (Holmerová 2005), EE: (Pöldma 2009), FR (Jani-Le Bris 2004), DE (Meyer 2004), LU (Ferring and Weber 2005), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), MT (Troisi and Famosa 2004), NL (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), PL (Błędowski and Pędich 2004), SI (Touzery 2004), ES (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), DK, FI, NO: (National Institute for Health and Welfare 2009), IT: (ISTAT 2006), IE, LV, UK (OECD 2005b), PT (Leitao, Samitca, and Wall 2008)
General comments	Various years (1998-2007)
Country specific comments	AT: OECD reports 3.6% in 2000. DK: According to the national EUROFAMCARE report the rate is 11.2% in 2001. HU: According to EUROFAMCARE report the rate is 1.9% of the 60+ in 2003. IE: According to EUROFAMCARE report the rate is 4.4% in 2002. LV: Only the number of places in care institutions is available and presented. NL: According to OECD 2.4%. SE: 7.0% in 2005 according to STAKES indicator bank.

Recipients of home based care

Definition	Home based care recipients as a share of 65+ population.
Unit	Percentage
Years	1998-2006
Countries missing	BG, CY, HU, GE, LT, RO, SK
Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK: (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), FI: (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), FR: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), DE: (Meyer 2004), GR (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), IT:(ISTAT 2006), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), LV: (Eglite 2009), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), NL: (OECD 2005b), MT: (Troisi and Famosa 2004), PL: (Błędowski and Pędich 2004), PT: (Leitao, Samitca, and Wall 2008), RU: (Kravchenko 2009) SI: (Touzery 2004), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (Nolan, Barber, Edis, Brown, and McKee 2004)
General comments	Data refer to different years (1998-2006).
Country specific comments	DK: Data refer to age group 67+. Bahle (Bahle 2007) reports 20.3% in 1995 and Pesaresi and Gori (Pesaresi and Gori 2005) report 24.6% for 2000. EE: Approximated figure. FI: 10.7% reported in Pesaresi and Gori (Pesaresi and Gori 2005) for 2000. DE: Bahle (Bahle 2007) reports 9.6% in 1995. 7.1% related only to service subsidized by the long-term-care insurance. IE: Approximately.

	<p>NO: 15.7% reported in 2000 by Pesaresi and Gori (Pesaresi and Gori 2005).</p> <p>PT: Day care center 3.8% and home care services 3.5%.</p> <p>ES: Bahle (Bahle 2007) reports 2.0% in 1995.</p> <p>SE: Only home help and day care centre.</p> <p>UK: Bahle (Bahle 2007) reports 5.5% for England and Wales in 1995. OECD (2005b) reports 20.3%.</p>
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4.7.3 Cash for care payments

Existence of a cash payment

Definition	Is there a cash payment for family carers available?
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004-2008
Countries missing	RU, GE
Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG: (MISSOC 2008), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK, (MISSOC 2008), (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), (MISSOC 2008), FI: (MISSOC 2008), (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), DE: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), HU: (MISSOC 2008), (Széman 2004), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), (MISSOC 2008), IT (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), (MISSOC 2008), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), MT: (Troisi and Farmosa 2004), NL: (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), NO: (Ingebretsen and Eriksen 2004), PL: (MISSOC 2008), PT: (MISSOC 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (MISSOC 2008), SI: (MISSOC 2008), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	BE: Only in Flanders CY: Cash payments are only very limited. IT: In addition to the national measure, some regions or municipalities offer, sometime on the basis of different criteria, some other cash for care (<i>assegni di cura</i>). LT: Cash payments are only very limited. MT: Cash payments are only very limited. ES: Only in some regions payments for care givers are provided. SE: Cash payments are only very limited.

To whom is the monetary allowance paid

Definition	This indicator differentiates between monetary care allowances paid to the care giver from allowances paid to the person cared for.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	RU, GE
Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG: (MISSOC 2008), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK, (MISSOC 2008), (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), (MISSOC 2008), FI: (MISSOC 2008), (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), DE: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), HU: (MISSOC 2008), (Széman 2004), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), (MISSOC 2008), IT (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), (MISSOC 2008), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), MT: (Troisi and Farmosa 2004), NL: (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), NO: (Ingebretsen and Eriksen 2004), PL: (MISSOC 2008), PT: (MISSOC 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (MISSOC 2008), SI: (MISSOC 2008), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific	CY: Agreement signed also by the person cared for.

comments	<p>CZ: When a family member decides to quit his / her employment and to take care of a dependent old person he /she is entitled to an allowance for care for a relative or another person, provided that he / she lives in the same household. He / she also must provide the care personally, permanently and properly. Income tested.</p> <p>DK: Cash benefit can be granted instead of home care so that the disabled person himself/herself can provide for care aids, assistance and accompanying service. In theory, this allows the older person to choose a family member as the private service provider with payment for the provision coming from the local authority.</p> <p>EE: 1) Caregiver's allowance is paid to a caregiver or guardian designated pursuant to the Family Law Act of an 18-year old or older person with a severe or profound disability. 2) Persons with special needs can apply for a small allowance for themselves and for a personal non-professional helper.</p> <p>FR: Money from APA (Allocation personnalisée à l'autonomie): the beneficiary can choose the care provider he will employ: a home service or an individual, excluding spouses.</p> <p>IE: There are two schemes: 1) Carer's benefit for people who give up their job to care for an incapacitated person. 2) Carer's Allowance is a means tested payment to carers not related to labour market history.</p> <p>LV: The provision is income tested.</p> <p>MT: Carer's Pension. To benefit from this pension, the carer has to live in the same household as that of the person he is taking care of. 2) Social Assistance for Females taking care of a sick or elderly relative: A single or widowed female who is unemployed and who is taking care of a sick or elderly relative all by herself and on a full-time basis. The cared for person has to be aged 60 and above. The carer has also to be living in the same household as the person who is being cared-for. Both rates are subject to a means test.</p> <p>NO: The arrangement of municipal care wage (in the Social Services Act) may serve as a financial compensation for loss of income when family members are unable to keep their jobs (partly or fully) due to care work for own family members.</p> <p>RO: Two Schemes: Monthly allowance and complementary personal budget.</p> <p>SK: Allowance for care dependent person (Príspevok na osobnú asistenciu) is income tested.</p> <p>UK: Several schemes: Carer's allowance: The carer must spend at least 35 hours a week caring. For care dependent persons: Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Constant Attendance Allowance, and Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance.</p>
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Formalisation of payments

Definition	Which formal regulations have to be fulfilled in order to use cash payments for a family carer?
Unit	Text information
Years	2004
Countries missing	RU, GE

Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG: (MISSOC 2008), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK, (MISSOC 2008), (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), (MISSOC 2008), FI: (MISSOC 2008), (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), DE: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), HU: (MISSOC 2008), (Széman 2004), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), (MISSOC 2008), IT (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), (MISSOC 2008), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), MT: (Troisi and Farmosa 2004), NL: (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), NO: (Ingebretsen and Eriksen 2004), PL: (MISSOC 2008), PT: (MISSOC 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (MISSOC 2008), SI: (MISSOC 2008), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Formal contract: The care allowance must be used to hire a carer (who in some cases may also be a family member) or to buy formal services. A formal employment contract has to be signed between caregiver and cared for person or the public authority which provides the benefit. Verification of costs: expenses must be accounted for. Free usage: No directive how to spend the benefit
Country specific comments	-

Minimum payment of care allowance per month

Definition	The indicators shows the minimum amount a caregiver or a person cared for receive as monetary care allowance. In countries with different levels of care allowances it corresponds to the lowest level of care needs or to the shortest time of care giving acknowledged by the public scheme.
Unit	Euro
Years	2004
Countries missing	DK, GE, IE, LV, MT, NO, RU, SK, SI, SE, UK
Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG: (MISSOC 2008), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK, (MISSOC 2008), (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), (MISSOC 2008), FI: (MISSOC 2008), (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), DE: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafillou, and Kontouka 2004), HU: (MISSOC 2008), (Széman 2004), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), (MISSOC 2008), IT (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), (MISSOC 2008), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), MT: (Troisi and Farmosa 2004), NL: (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), NO: (Ingebretsen and Eriksen 2004), PL: (MISSOC 2008), PT: (MISSOC 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (MISSOC 2008), SI: (MISSOC 2008), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Benefits paid because of invalidity insurance schemes are not considered.
Country specific comments	BE: Flat rate payment. BG: Reference year is 2007. The amount is calculated as 75 % of the social pensions (43 Euro in 2007). CZ: Flat rate payment. It is 1.6 times the life minimum. If the carer cares for two persons the rate is 2.75 time the life minimum (196 Euro). DK: Depends on the amount of care the family carer spends for caring. FI: The minimum pensioner's care allowance is 52 Euro

	<p>and the minimum cares allowance is 229 Euro.</p> <p>HU: At least 80% of the minimum amount of old-age pension if the claim is based on the discretionary decision of the local authorities: at least the minimum amount of Old-age Pension (Öregségi nyugdíj) if the claim is based on the own right of the claimant.</p> <p>IT: Flat rate payment.</p> <p>LT: Flat rate payment, 100 % of social insurance basic pension.</p> <p>LU: Hypothetical minimum for one hour of care provision in a month. The dependant person receives a nursing allowance of € 23.85 per hour. The beneficiary can dispose of this money to finance an informal caregiver.</p> <p>NL: For up to 2 hours household care per week (class 1).</p> <p>NO: Average amount in 2002 is about 655 Euro per month.</p> <p>PL: Flat rate payment.</p> <p>PT: Long-term Care supplement (complemento por dependência). Amount indexed to the value of the non-contributory pension € 151.84: 45% or 85% of this value, according to the dependency degree.</p> <p>RO: For persons with medium handicap who receive only the lowest amount of the complementary allowance. Reference year is 2008.</p> <p>UK: Various rates, no clear minimum to define.</p>
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Maximum payment of care allowance per month

Definition	The indicators shows the maximum (regular) amount a caregiver or a person cared for receive as monetary care allowance. In countries with different levels of care allowances it corresponds to the highest level of care needs or to the longest time of care giving acknowledged by the public scheme.
Unit	Euro
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, HU, LV, LU, MT, NO, RU, SI, SE, UK
Data sources	AT: (Hörl 2005), BE: (Heylen and Jappens 2009), BG: (MISSOC 2008), CZ: (Holmerová 2005), DK, (MISSOC 2008), (Leeson 2004), EE: (Pöldma 2009), (MISSOC 2008), FI: (MISSOC 2008), (Parkatti and Eskola 2004), DE: (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), GR: (Mestheneos, Triantafyllou, and Kontouka 2004), HU: (MISSOC 2008), (Széman 2004), IE: (McMahon and Barron 2004), (MISSOC 2008), IT (Blome, Keck, and Alber 2009), LV: (Eglite 2009), LT: (Stankuniene 2009), (MISSOC 2008), LU: (Ferring and Weber 2005), MT: (Troisi and Farmosa 2004), NL: (Visser-Jansen and Knipscheer 2004), NO: (Ingebretsen and Eriksen 2004), PL: (MISSOC 2008), PT: (MISSOC 2008), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), SK: (MISSOC 2008), SI: (MISSOC 2008), ES: (Jauregi 2004), SE: (Johansson 2004), UK: (MISSOC 2008)
General comments	Benefits paid because of invalidity insurance schemes are not considered. In some countries there are supplementary payments in case of hardship. These are not considered.
Country specific comments	BE: Flat rate payment. BG: Reference year is 2007. The amount is calculated as 75 % of the social pensions (43 Euro in 2007). CZ: Flat rate payment. It is 1.6 times the life minimum. If the carer cares for two persons the rate is 2.75

	<p>time the life minimum (196 Euro).</p> <p>DK: The maximum amount of full-time employment is 16556 DKK which has been converted into Euro.</p> <p>EE: 41 Euro refer to the disabled people allowance. The caregiver's allowance is 13 Euro.</p> <p>FI: No information about the maximum carer's allowance. The mean allowance was 288 Euro in 2002.</p> <p>IE: 599 Euro for Carer's Benefit and 555 Euro für Carer's Allowance. Higher rates are possible, if the caregiver cares for more than one person or is older than 65 years.</p> <p>IT: Flat rate payment.</p> <p>LT: Flat rate payment, 100 % of social insurance basic pension.</p> <p>NL: For 16-20 hours nursing care per week (class 7).</p> <p>NO: Average amount in 2002 is about 655 Euro per month.</p> <p>PL: Flat rate payment.</p> <p>PT: Long-term Care supplement (complemento por dependência). Amount indexed to the value of the non-contributory pension € 151.84: 45% or 85% of this value, according to the dependency degree.</p> <p>RO: For persons with very serious handicap who receive 51 Euro monthly allowance and 23 Euro complementary allowance. Reference year is 2008.</p> <p>SK: The amount is 198 Euro if the caregiver cares for more than one person. No maximum provided for the allowance for the care dependent person.</p> <p>UK: Various rates, no clear maximum to define.</p>
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4.8 Pensions

4.8.1 Pension entitlements

Standard retirement age: men

Definition	Age at which a person may or must retire, without deductions from the pension benefit.
Unit	Age in years
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CZ: (Rabusic 2009), EE: (Põldma 2009), MT: (Eulisses 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Social Protection Committee 2007)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>BE: Deferred retirement possible thus generally improving wages taken into account for pension calculation (civil servants are not allowed to defer retirement).</p> <p>CZ: Deferred retirement possible.</p> <p>CY: Deferment possible until 68 years.</p> <p>DK: Public old age pension can be deferred up to 10 years (120 months). The deferment can begin at any time after reaching the pension age. The (ATP) pension can be deferred up to the age of 70.</p> <p>EE: Deferred old age pension is available, provided the person has fulfilled other eligibility criteria for old age pension. Retirement can be postponed by an indefinite period.</p> <p>DE: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>GR: Deferment possible until the age of 67.</p> <p>HU: Unlimited deferment possible (except in certain professions, civil servant, judges; for them deferment possible until 70 years of age).</p> <p>IE: Deferred retirement until age 66.</p> <p>LV: Unlimited deferment available.</p> <p>LT: Deferral permitted for 5 years beyond standard retirement age.</p> <p>LU: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>NL: Deferment possible, but has no consequence for first pillar. Further accrual of pension rights possible, depends on scheme agreed on by social partners.</p> <p>PL: Increased period of employment reflected in pension formula (no maximum period, all periods are taken into account).</p> <p>PT: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>RO: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>SK: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>ES: As a general rule, unlimited deferment possible.</p> <p>SE: Unlimited deferment possible. Pension rights can be accrued as long as a person has pensionable earnings.</p> <p>UK: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p>

Standard retirement age: women

Definition	Age at which a person could be or have to be retired without deductions from the pension benefit.
Unit	Age in years
Years	2004
Countries missing	-
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), CZ: (Rabusic 2009), EE: (Põldma 2009), MT: (Eulisses 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (Social Protection Committee 2007)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>BE: Deferred retirement possible thus generally improving wages taken into account for pension calculation (civil servants are not allowed to defer retirement).</p> <p>CZ: Deferred retirement possible.</p> <p>CY: Deferment possible until 68 years.</p> <p>DK: Public old age pension can be deferred up to 10 years (120 months). The deferment can begin at any time after reaching the pension age. The (ATP) pension can be deferred up to the age of 70.</p> <p>EE: Deferred old age pension is available, provided the person has fulfilled other eligibility criteria for old age pension. Retirement can be postponed by an indefinite period.</p> <p>DE: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>GR: Deferment possible until the age of 67.</p> <p>HU: Unlimited deferment possible (except in certain professions, civil servant, judges; for them deferment possible until 70 years of age).</p> <p>IE: Deferred retirement until age 66.</p> <p>LV: Unlimited deferment available.</p> <p>LT: Deferral permitted for 5 years beyond standard retirement age.</p> <p>LU: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>NL: Deferment possible, but has no consequence for first pillar. Further accrual of pension rights possible, depends on scheme agreed on by social partners.</p> <p>PL: Increased period of employment reflected in pension formula (no maximum period, all periods are taken into account).</p> <p>PT: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>RO: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>SK: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p> <p>ES: As a general rule, unlimited deferment possible.</p> <p>SE: Unlimited deferment possible. Pension rights can be accrued as long as a person has pensionable earnings.</p> <p>UK: Unlimited Deferral is allowed.</p>

Minimum contributory period

Definition	Minimum contributory period in years to be eligible for a pension benefit.
Unit	Number of years
Years	2004
Countries missing	
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), all others: (MISSOC 2008)

General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: There are two other options: 1) 25 years of insurance months which also includes insured periods without contribution payments or 2) 15 years of insurance within the last 30 years previous to retirement.</p> <p>BE: Average taken from the gender specific periods. For women it is 28.7 years, for men it is 30 years.</p> <p>DK: National pension (Folkepension): At least three years of residence in Denmark between the ages of 15 and 65 (67 for those who had reached the age of 60 on 1.7.1999). Non nationals: 10 years of residence in Denmark, 5 years immediately before pension. No minimum period for supplementary pension.</p> <p>FI: National pension (Kansaneläke): 3 years of residence in Finland after the age of 16. Statutory earnings-related pension (Työeläke): 1 month of employment and salary above given minimum.</p> <p>GR: Approximated figure. The conditions are that the person has to be paid contributions for 4500 working days. Assuming 5 working days a week and 260 working days (52*5) a year the minimum contribution period is 17.3 years.</p> <p>HU: Receiving the full pension entitlement the minimum contribution period is 20 years. But there is an option for a partial pension which could be claimed after 15 years of contribution.</p> <p>IE: There is the condition that between 1953 and the year the person reach the age of 66 the person have to be paid on average 10 contributions per years. For a pension who is retired with the age of 66 in 2004 have to be paid 510 contributions which are around 9.8 years of contribution payment. The absolute minimum length of payment is 260 contributions which equals to 5 years.</p> <p>IT: Pensioners in the old system are considered. For those under the old system, based on seniority and wages of last 10 years, at least 20 years of contributions; for those under the new contributory system, 5 years since 1996.</p> <p>LU: If, at age 65, the insured does not fulfil the necessary condition of 120 months of insurance to obtain an old-age pension (pension de vieillesse), the contributions paid (except the portion paid by the State) are reimbursed.</p> <p>MT: The minimum contributory period of 10 years refer to the period of employment. Within this period there have to be at least 15 contributions (monthly) paid or credited.</p> <p>NO: For the basic pension the condition is only three years of residence. For the supplementary pension, pensions points have to be credited for at least 3 years.</p> <p>PL: The minimum contributory period for persons born before 1.1.1949 is 20 years for women and 25 years for men. An Old-age Pension (Emerytura) can be drawn by persons with fewer contributory and non-contributory periods (15 years for women and 20 years for men), but there is no guarantee of a minimum pension.</p> <p>PT: For those years taken into account it is necessary to prove 120 registered days of pay for each year.</p>

	<p>RO: Information refers to 2006.</p> <p>ES: There must have been at least two years of pension insurance during the 15 years immediately preceding the event which gives the right to entitlement.</p> <p>SE: For the guaranteed minimum pension there is the condition of 3 years of residence.</p> <p>UK: The minimum contribution period for the basic state pension is 10 to 11 years. For supplementary pensions schemes there are further conditions to fulfil.</p> <p>RU: It is not expressed in terms of contribution but in terms of work record.</p> <p>GE: Membership in the pension scheme is required which means that there is a least one contribution paid.</p>
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Credited non-contribution periods for child care

Definition	Non-contribution periods for child care credited or taken into account either to determine eligibility or to calculate the pension level.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	RU, GE
Data sources	(MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Credited non-contribution periods for caring for an adult person

Definition	Non-contribution periods for caring for an adult person credited or taken into account either to determine eligibility or to calculate the pension level.
Unit	0=No/1=Yes
Years	2004
Countries missing	RU, GE
Data sources	(MISSOC 2008)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

4.8.2 Minimum pension

Minimum pension related to contribution period

Definition	Minimum pension provision for pensioners with a certain length of contribution period but with pension claims below a defined threshold.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>BE: There are two different contributions based minimum pension schemes, which differentiate between long contributions records of 30 years and more and shorter contribution records of minimum 15 years.</p> <p>BG: There are two different contribution based minimum pension schemes which differentiate between a full contribution record but low pension claims and a contribution record of minimum 15 years.</p> <p>DE: Only a very specific scheme is available, which upgrades the pensions for those having 35 years of contributions and a low pension due to times of child rearing.</p> <p>GR: Several schemes for the different pension funds with varying eligibility criteria and benefit levels.</p> <p>IT: Those who have a minimum contributory record but do not reach the minimum social security pension, may have their earned pension integrated to the minimum on the basis of a household income test (only the couple's income is counted, not that of children living with the pensioner)</p> <p>PT: There is an additional scheme for agricultural worker.</p> <p>UK: There are two different pension schemes. One provides a basic universal pension and the other scheme supports pensioners with low income by pension credits.</p>

Non-contributory pension

Definition	Minimum pension which is paid to people having passed a specific age threshold, but have not met any qualifying contribution period of the pension scheme. Depending on the country, the pension may be paid either as a universal basic pension or as a means tested one.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	Please also look at special social assistance schemes for the elderly because it is not always clear whether a scheme belongs to the pensions system or is part of minimum social protection schemes.
Country specific comments	-

Special social assistance scheme for the elderly

Definition	Minimum income provision on a means tested basis for the elderly who have insufficient income.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	Please also look at non-contributory pensions because it is not always clear whether a scheme belongs to the pensions system or is part of minimum social protection schemes.
Country specific comments	DE: There is an easier access to social assistance for older people but no special benefits. IT: for the 65 and over years old, who are not entitled to a contributory pension and have a (very) low household income: 5.317 euro for a single, 10.535 euro for a couple. Only the couple's income is taken account of. It covers the difference between the maximum threshold and the actual income of the household. Recipients must have resided in Italy continuously for the previous 10 years.

Level of minimum security in old age

Definition	Minimum income granted to older people as a share of average net income of a production worker.
Unit	Percent of average net income
Years	2005/2006
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	MT: (Ministry of Social Policy Malta 2009), all others: (Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	The scheme is considered which is available to all older persons. This means that the focus is on the lowest level of income provision, although more generous minimum pension schemes may exist for a subgroup of pensioners. Please read the country specific comments to identify which pension or social assistance scheme has been selected.
Country specific comments	AT: Minimum pension BE: Social assistance for the elderly over 64. BG: Social pension for old age - paid at age 70. Approximation of the figure of around 20 percent of gross average wage. CY: General public assistance. The minimum pension to persons with low insurance records is lower than the public assistance. CZ: General subsistence level (approximated figure). DK: Residence-based state pension. DE: Basic protection in old age. EE: National pension payable to persons 63 years old. FI: Residence-based national pension for people aged 65 and over. FR: Non contributory means tested residence-based minimum pension for people over 65. GR: Minimum pension varies by pension fund. The figure refers to the minimum pension provided by the largest pension fund in Greece (IKA). HU: Non contributory old-age allowance for persons aged 62 and over. IE: Non contributory means tested flat-rate social welfare pension for people aged 66 and over.

	<p>IT: Social assistance benefit for people over 65 without any other income or with an income below the threshold.</p> <p>LV: State social security benefit to people with insufficient qualification period for old-age pensions.</p> <p>LT: Social assistance pension for people with no sufficient insurance record.</p> <p>LU: Guaranteed minimum income.</p> <p>MT: Non contributory pension for persons aged over 60.</p> <p>NL: Individual residence-based state pension.</p> <p>PL: Regular allowance to persons, whose income does not reach the income threshold due to age or disability.</p> <p>PT: Solidarity supplement for the elderly.</p> <p>SK: Social assistance.</p> <p>SI: State pension for those not entitled to a pension.</p> <p>ES: Non contributory pension</p> <p>SE: Residence-based guarantee pension for people aged 65 and over.</p> <p>UK: Pension credit is an income-related benefit ensuring a minimum income guarantee for people aged 60 and over.</p>
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4.8.3 Net replacement rates

Net replacement rate: standard pensioner

Definition	Net income replacement granted by the most general pension scheme in the respective country to a standard pensioner who retired at 65 and has worked for 40 years earning an average income. Replacement rates are calculated at the moment of pension take-up by dividing the pension income during the first year of retirement by the income during the year preceding retirement.
Unit	Share of average income
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Net replacement rate: low income

Definition	Net income replacement granted by the most general pension scheme in the respective country to a pensioner who retired at 65 has worked for 40 years earning two thirds of the national average income. Replacement rates are calculated at the moment of pension take-up by dividing the pension income during the first year of retirement by the income during the year preceding retirement.
Unit	Share of two third of average income
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	Replacement rates are calculated at the moment of pension take-up by dividing the pension income during the first year of retirement by the income during the year preceding retirement.
Country specific comments	-

Net replacement rate: high income

Definition	Net income replacement granted by the most general pension scheme in the respective country to a pensioner who retired at 65 has worked for 40 years, and whose earnings increased linearly from average income at the beginning up to twice the average income at the end of his career. Replacement rates are calculated at the moment of pension take-up by dividing the pension income during the first year of retirement by the income during the year preceding retirement.
Unit	Share of twice the average income
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

Net replacement rate: broken working career

Definition	Net income replacement granted by the most general pension scheme in the respective country to a pensioner who retired at 65 has worked for 30 years earning an average income. This worker interrupted his career for overall 10 years. Replacement rates are calculated at the moment of pension take-up by dividing the pension income during the first year of retirement by the income during the year preceding retirement.
Unit	Share of average income
Years	2004
Countries missing	GE, NO, RU
Data sources	(Social Protection Committee 2006)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	-

4.9 Childrens' obligation to support parents

Children's' obligation to support their parents

Definition	Do Children have the legal obligation to support their parents in case of need.
Unit	Yes/No
Years	2007
Countries missing	CY, CZ, SI
Data sources	BG: (Kostova 2009), EE: (Põldma 2009), GE: (Badurashvili 2009), HU: (Spéder, Blaskó, and Monostori 2009), NO: (Herlofson 2009), RO: (Chromkova Manea 2009), RU: (Kravchenko 2009), all others: (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters 2009)
General comments	-
Country specific comments	<p>AT: Children owe their parents maintenance, taking due account of their circumstances, if the parents entitled to maintenance are not in a position to maintain themselves and have not grossly neglected their own maintenance obligations to their child.</p> <p>BE: The maintenance allowance that operates for parents with regard to their children (section 205 of the Civil Code) is reciprocal. Children thus owe maintenance to their father and mother if they are in need.</p> <p>FR: Children must provide maintenance for their father and mother. Spouses during the marriage, including in the case of a legal separation; All descendants and direct relatives in the ascending line; Sons-in-law and daughters-in-law vis-a-vis their father-in</p> <p>DE: Children have to support parents beyond so called "Selbstbehalt" (retained amount) which is increased in recent years.</p> <p>IT: Children must provide maintenance both to their parents and to their parents in law. In case they do, they may benefit from tax credits for them and may also ask that in case of the obliged child's death, they benefit of the survivor pension.</p> <p>LU: Adult children are required to maintain parents who are unable to work and who need support. Maintenance is paid on the basis either of a mutual agreement or of a court decision. Adult siblings who are capable of doing so are required to maintain their brothers and sisters.</p> <p>NL: In the Netherlands there is the obligation in the civil Code. But the social assistance law has granted social assistance to old people irrespective of children's obligations.</p> <p>PL: Exists a maintenance obligation" between blood relatives".</p> <p>PT: The following are required to pay maintenance in the indicated order: 1. spouse or former spouse; 2. descendants; 3. ascendants; 4. brothers and sisters; 5. uncles and aunts, during the minority of the person maintained; 6. stepfather.</p> <p>SK: The maintenance obligation exists between children and their parents as well as between other relatives;</p> <p>ES: Children for their needy parents and collateral relatives up to the second degree, if they have no closer relatives.</p>

	GE: The Civil Code of Georgia stipulates that a child who has become an adult is required to maintain his or her parent who needs assistance and is incapacitated for work.
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Annex: Abbreviation of countries

	ISO 3166 Alpha 2
Austria	AT
Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Cyprus	CY
Czech Republik	CZ
Denmark	DK
Estonia	EE
Finland	FI
France	FR
Georgia	GE
Germany	DE
Greece	GR
Hungary	HU
Ireland	IE
Italy	IT
Latvia	LV
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Malta	MT
Netherlands	NL
Norway	NO
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Russia	RU
Slovakia	SK
Slovenia	SI
Spain	ES
Sweden	SE
United Kingdom	UK