



Strengthening Care for Preschool Children

Policy Brief Czechia

Grant Agreement n°. 101084234



**Funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Policy Brief CZ05, 2025.

Strengthening Care for Pre-school Children

1






Executive Summary

Establishing additional kindergartens, supporting other forms of childcare, solving the problem of vacant paediatricians positions.

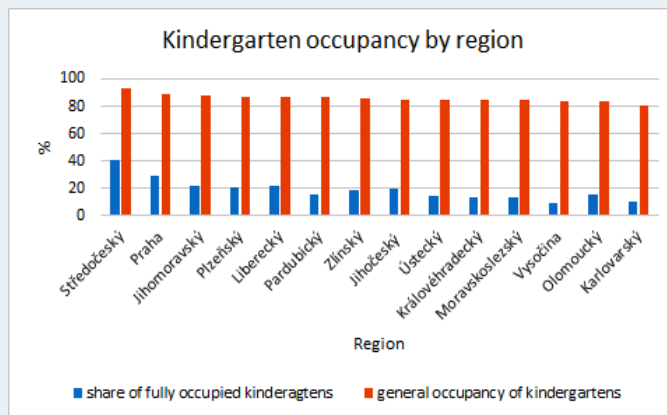
The Challenge

- As a result of underestimating demographic trends, parents' interest in returning to work earlier, and the increased immigration of Ukrainian mothers with young children, an acute shortage of places in preschools has arisen - especially in some territories. Tens of thousands of places in kindergartens are missing which does not allow parents to return to work early.
- Other forms of childcare are underdeveloped because they have so far been hindered by hygiene and other regulations.
- In addition to ensuring uninterrupted careers for women and men, an earlier return of parents to work would bring an economic effect in the form of benefits and collected taxes.
- Additional problem in rural preschool care is also the lack of pediatrician positions.
- Both problems are regionally differentiated. While kindergartens are lacking mainly around large cities, pediatricians are lacking in remote areas.
- The ill-considered administrative reform after 1989 has resulted in 22% of municipalities having fewer than 200 inhabitants and therefore a minimal budget and a low number of qualified people. Therefore, it is not realistic to comply with government regulations.

Policy Solutions

-  Intensive construction of preschool facilities makes sense especially in the territory of large cities and their surroundings.
-  Taking into account demographic prognoses, these facilities should be flexible with the possibility of future reconstruction into homes for the elderly.
-  The care of preschool children needs to be addressed immediately through other forms, for example, children's groups under Act No. 247/2014 Coll
-  However, regions and municipalities should fundamentally follow demographic analyses and solve problems in advance.
-  There is a shortage of pediatricians in rural areas, and half of those doctors who work are over the age of 60. More attention needs to be paid to the proposed measures of the Czech Pediatric Society.

Supporting Evidence & Best Practices



It is clear that the problem lies in the uneven regional distribution of kindergartens and children. However, municipalities and their associations must cope with this problem.

In the last 5 years, 300 pediatric general practitioners' offices have closed, and a third of those currently in operation are over 65 years old. Young medical graduates have little interest in separate positions in more remote locations due to high responsibility, bureaucratic barriers, and limited cultural and social life.

These circumstances also make life difficult for active rural residents, especially women because, according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 98% of parental allowance is drawn by women.



Conclusion & Call to Action

The situation requires a quick solution that will not only free up people (mostly women) to work in the market, but also improve services in rural areas.

CALL TO ACTION:

- 🏠 Govern and Municipalities must analyze the need for kindergarten places at least five years in advance and establish an appropriate strategy. According to Act 247/2014 Coll., the obligation to provide preschool care for children from the age of three years has been transferred to municipalities.
- 🏠 In the case of very small municipalities, solutions must be sought through cooperation, pooling resources and people (e.g. within of voluntary associations of municipalities). Children's groups (between 6 months and 6 years of then age of children) that do not include the educational function, can also be used.
- 🏠 According to the Association of General Practitioners for Children and Adolescents, the solution could lie in setting rules for the education of young doctors

Further Reading

<https://zenodo.org/records/14045390>

About FLIARA

The project is on a mission to create a more sustainable future by highlighting the role of women in agriculture and rural areas. FLIARA will boost understanding of the needs and challenges facing women leading innovative environmental and rural development practices in EU farming and rural areas.

Contact

Email: info@fliara.eu

2025.



Female-Led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas

www.fliara.eu



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY



AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



UNIVERSITÀ DELLA
CALABRIA



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU



Linnæus University
Sweden



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
School of Education and
Communication