

<b>Indicator (definition)</b>	<b>Formal child care by duration and age group:</b> The indicator is defined as the percentage of Children cared for, by formal arrangements other than by the family, less than 30 hours a usual week/30 hours or more a usual week as a proportion of all children of same age group. Breakdown by Children aged under 3 (0-2 years), Children aged between 3 years and admission age for compulsory school.
<b>Eurostat Unit</b>	Labour Market, Living conditions and social protection
<b>Other Commission DGs</b>	DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
<b>European Statistical System Working Group (WG)</b>	WG on Labour Market Statistics WG on Living Conditions and social protection
<b>Date</b>	May 2010

**1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability** (Description of quality grades under the following link: [http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general\\_information/quality\\_profiles/annex\\_enpdf/EN\\_1.0\\_&a=d](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d))

A     
  B     
  C     
  Indicator to be developed

Data on formal child care are collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology. Due to differences in the age of admission to compulsory primary education the comparability across countries is restricted. The shortness of the time series restricts the comparability over time.

### 2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

This indicator belongs to the “Laeken portfolio” of social inclusion indicators adopted under the open method of coordination.

Formal arrangements refer to the EU-SILC survey reply categories 1-4 (pre-school or equivalent, compulsory education, centre-based services outside school hours, a collective crèche or another day-care centre, including family day-care organised/controlled by a public or private structure).

Formal child care is one main objective of the European employment strategy and refers to guideline 18: to enhance a lifecycle approach to work and to promote reconciliation between work and family life. Therefore policies regarding childcare provision are necessary. Securing coverage of at least 90 % of children between 3 years old and the mandatory school age and at least 33 % of children under 3 years of age by 2010 is a useful benchmark at national level, but specific efforts are also needed to tackle regional disparities within countries. The increase in the average employment rate of parents, especially single parents, who are usually exposed to higher poverty risk, requires measures to support families. In particular, Member States should take account of the special needs of single parents and families with many children.

### Restriction of the indicator’s relevance and other characteristics which may lead to restrictions in using it in monitoring and reporting

Analysing the availability of childcare is not sufficient. Childcare should also be affordable to give parents more incentive to use it and to improve parental choice. In most countries childcare services are not freely accessible.

### 3. Data availability: details

( $t_1$ : earliest reference year available;  $t_2$ : latest reference year available in May 2010)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA <sup>1</sup>
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<sup>1</sup> While being a member of the EEA, Liechtenstein has complete or partial exemptions from several statistical requirements due to its size. Thus, Liechtenstein is excluded from this overview as most of the data are missing.

t <sub>1</sub>	2005: BE, CZ, DK, DE, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, MT, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK 2007: RO, BG	-	-	2005: IS, NO
t <sub>2</sub>	2008	-	-	2007: NO 2008

*Comments (including information on time series):* Data is not reliable for NO in 2006, for DE and LT in 2007.

#### 4. Overall accuracy

High   
 Restricted   
 (sources, errors, methodology, etc.)

The overall accuracy is considered as high. Comparable childcare data are available since 2005.

The EU-SILC target population in each country consists of all persons living in private households. The childcare target population consists of all household members not over 12 years old.

In most cases participant countries launch a new EU-SILC survey from scratch with integrated cross-sectional and longitudinal elements. Other countries use a combination of registers and interviews. Others seek to adapt existing national sources.

Minimum effective sample sizes are specified in the EU-SILC framework regulation 1177/2003. They should be carefully designed to ensure a degree of representativity and are to be increased by participant countries to the extent that their national sample is not determined on a simple random basis, or to reflect likely levels of non-response, or to reflect any specific national requirements. Separate values are specified for the cross-sectional and longitudinal elements.

#### 5. Comparability across countries

High   
 Restricted

Comparability is restricted across countries because of differences among countries due to the age of admission to compulsory primary education. This kind of lack of comparability will be quite difficult to reduce or eliminate as it would imply a harmonisation of the national educational systems. In addition, the comparability is also restricted due to different length of maternity leave in the countries.

#### 6. Comparability over time

High   
 Restricted

The comparability over time is restricted because of the shortness of the time series. For a large number of countries data are available from 2005 onwards.

#### 7. Development perspective for improving the quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of the burden on Member States and respondents.)

The set of automatic data checks is being extended. Once validated and made available to countries, spatial and temporal comparability will increase.

#### 8. Contribution to the coherence of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

The formal child care indicator monitors progress helping people of all ages to find jobs and removing barriers that prevent them from doing so. Links can be established with other indicators which have the objective of a better access to labour markets (e.g. early school leavers, lifelong learning).

#### Relevant European legislation

REGULATION (EC) No 1177/2003 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 June 2003 concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).

REGULATION (EC) No 1983/2003 of 7 November 2003 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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