



European Network of
Single Parent Families

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Child care – need and reality

In the exchange between European single parent associations, the urgency for childcare facilities close to the affected families became clear.

The single parent associations therefore demand

- to provide comprehensive and free child care to single parents from the birth of the child if necessary (e.g. employment). The extent of support must be based on the specific needs. Using the example of the regulations in Malta since 2014, ensuring childcare is the basis for single parents to pursue their employment. Self-employed people in particular are not financially secure. In Germany, they are not entitled to maternity protection with compensation for loss of income, child-care allowance, etc. In practice, this means that mothers who are single parents when the child is born immediately return to work. The care of the children must then be made available as a state benefit in the event that the single parent has no family care options.
- Before the child starts school, attendance at a childcare facility is mandatory and guaranteed by the state for a period of one year.

What has proven to be positive about the Finnish model is that all children attend a childcare facility one year before starting school. The children's social development is promoted in this way, any linguistic deficits can be compensated for, and school entry is prepared according to the children's needs.

The support and educational aspect comes to the fore. Core skills such as reading and writing are acquired safely and this can prevent children from not achieving their target in the entry-level class due to existing deficits. This success could also be seen in large areas of Germany.

Providing generally accessible, high-quality, all-day childcare is a task for society as a whole for all European states in the service of their citizens.

ENoS - European Network for Single Parents - The European Network for Single Parents - has been campaigning for improvements in the legal, financial, social and cultural situation of single-parent families since 2009, as well as for the recognition and equal rights of single-parent families in legal, financial and social terms.

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